

TOWN OF PITTSFORD

SETTLED 1789

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March 28, 2019

Hon. Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
Hon. Charles Schumer, Minority Leader
United States Senate

Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
Hon. Steny Hoyer, Majority Leader
Hon. Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives

Re: Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As citizens and municipal officials, the undersigned members of the Pittsford Town Board recognize the effects of use of fossil fuels and its consequences for public health and the environment.

We urge Congress to make effective use of free-market mechanisms to help mitigate these effects. We wrote to you previously to endorse a Carbon Fee and Dividend, as a revenue-neutral means to promote transition to greater energy conservation and more renewable sources of energy.

Today we write to urge the United States Congress to enact the **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763**.

The proposed Act provides for market-driven mechanisms to reduce harmful pollution. It addresses the problem whereby environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels. Instead, these externalized costs are borne directly and indirectly not just by all Americans, but by people worldwide.

To correct this externalization of costs, the Act would impose a carbon fee on fossil fuels, based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel emits when burned. Beginning at a relatively low starting rate of \$15 per ton of CO₂ emissions and other greenhouse gasses, the fee would increase annually by not less than \$10 per ton, with the goal of progressively lowering carbon dioxide emissions. It is estimated that by year 12, this mechanism would decrease America's carbon dioxide emissions by 40 percent.

Fees collected would be paid to all U.S. households in equal shares, in the form of a monthly dividend. The Act provides for paying 100% of the net carbon fees collected per month

to the dividend payments. Among its other benefits, the dividend would help protect low and middle-income residents from rising prices due to the carbon fee. It would put money into local economies and help create jobs.

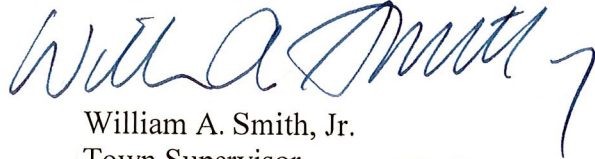
The proposed Act represents a practical, market-based approach to reducing carbon emissions. The Internal Revenue Service has the ability to implement and enforce the fee, and already collects fees from fossil fuel producers and importers.

A national revenue-neutral carbon fee would demonstrate American leadership in mitigating CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions. It would do so without the need for complex international agreements and could serve as an example to other countries to act accordingly.

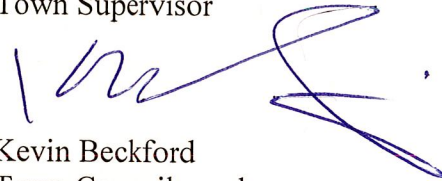
For these reasons we urge the United States Congress to enact without delay the **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763.**

Thank you for your consideration.

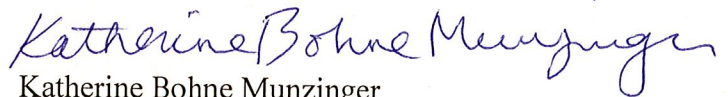
Respectfully submitted,



William A. Smith, Jr.
Town Supervisor



Kevin Beckford
Town Councilmember



Katherine Bohne Munzinger
Town Councilmember



Matthew J. O'Connor
Town Councilmember



Stephanie Townsend
Town Councilmember