

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

**AR No. 2019-106**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RECOGNIZING THE POLLUTION CAUSED BY BURNING FOSSIL FUELS CONTRIBUTES TO CLIMATE CHANGE ON A GLOBAL SCALE, AND URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO SUPPORT AND PASS THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019.**

1 **WHEREAS**, stewardship of our economy and our environment is a critical responsibility  
2 for all Alaskans and is necessary to ensure health and opportunity for future generations;  
3 and  
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5 **WHEREAS**, climate change is having a costly effect on Alaska's infrastructure and overall  
6 economy due to thawing permafrost, increased flood and landslide risk, and larger urban  
7 and rural wildfires; and  
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9 **WHEREAS**, the national security establishment, including the U.S. military, intelligence,  
10 and homeland security have identified climate change as a substantial national security  
11 risk and are acting to address it; and  
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13 **WHEREAS**, Anchorage is home to the largest number of sport and commercial fishermen  
14 in Alaska; and  
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16 **WHEREAS**, the absorption of excess carbon dioxide in oceans is causing ocean  
17 acidification, which disrupts the food web that sustains our seafood industry, Alaska's  
18 largest private employer, as well as the subsistence needs across Alaska; and  
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20 **WHEREAS**, the loss of coastal sea ice, sea level rise, and extreme weather events are  
21 causing coastal erosion that threatens Alaska communities and contributes to forced  
22 migration of rural Alaskans; and  
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24 **WHEREAS**, climate change has already contributed to sea ice decline, ocean warming  
25 and ocean acidification; and  
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27 **WHEREAS**, die-offs and depletion of several Alaska species are attributed to warmer air  
28 and ocean temperatures and food chain disruption; and  
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30 **WHEREAS**, the snow drought and lower warmer water levels in lakes and rivers is  
31 disrupting rural travel and stressing fish populations; and  
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33 **WHEREAS**, the short- and long-term costs associated with the above climate risks  
34 represent increasingly significant expenditures for citizens, businesses and governments  
35 alike; and  
36

1 **WHEREAS**, these changes are expected to continue into the future with increasing  
2 temperatures<sup>1</sup>; and  
3

4 **WHEREAS**, federal legislation called The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of  
5 2019 (H.R. 763), would enact a national carbon fee on fossil fuels, based on the amount  
6 of carbon dioxide a fuel emits when burned; and  
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8 **WHEREAS**, for efficient administration, this fee would be levied as far upstream in the  
9 economy as practical, or at the ports of entry into the United States; and  
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11 **WHEREAS**, this national, revenue-neutral carbon fee, starting at a relatively low rate and  
12 increasing steadily over future years, is a market-based solution that would stimulate the  
13 economy while sending a clear and predictable price signal to businesses and individuals  
14 to develop and use low-carbon energy resources; and  
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16 **WHEREAS**, this revenue-neutral carbon fee would be returned to American families in  
17 the form of a dividend, thus, putting money into people's hands to boost the economy,  
18 while not increasing the size of government; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, a border carbon tariff can maintain the competitiveness of United States  
21 businesses in global markets and protect U.S. manufacturers and jobs, imported goods  
22 from countries that do not control carbon can pay a border carbon adjustment, and goods  
23 exported to those same markets from the United States can receive a refund; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, a national carbon fee can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and  
26 respond to the urgency of the climate crisis, because the federal government already has  
27 in place mechanisms in the Department of Treasury needed to implement and distribute  
28 it; and  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, this national carbon fee would make the United States a leader in mitigating  
31 climate change, advance clean energy technologies, exceed the U.S. Paris commitments,  
32 and motivate other countries to enact similar carbon fees; thereby reducing global carbon  
33 dioxide emissions<sup>2</sup>; now, therefore,  
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### 35 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:** 36

37 **Section 1.** The Anchorage Assembly hereby recognizes that the pollution caused by  
38 burning fossil fuels is a primary cause of climate change, and that an effective and efficient  
39 measure to address this problem is the enactment of a revenue-neutral fee on carbon  
40 production at its source, with the fees being returned to Americans as a dividend, and a  
41 border carbon tariff to protect American jobs and competitiveness.  
42

43 **Section 2.** The Anchorage Assembly strongly urges the U.S House of Representatives  
44 and the U.S. Senate to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019  
45 (H.R. 763), legislation that levies an annually increasing revenue-neutral carbon fee, that

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<sup>1</sup> 4th National Climate Assessment – Alaska Chapter  
[https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA4\\_Ch26\\_Alaska\\_Full.pdf](https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/downloads/NCA4_Ch26_Alaska_Full.pdf) (accessed March 14, 2019).

<sup>2</sup> <https://energyinnovationact.org/> (accessed March 14, 2019).

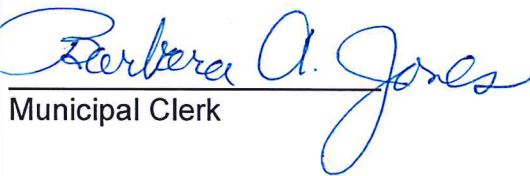
1 would be enough to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions to climate-safe levels by  
2 2050, with the fees returned to Americans households as a monthly dividend.  
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4 **Section 3.** The Municipal Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to  
5 Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan, and Congressman Don Young.  
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8 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 9th day of April, 2019.  
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12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 Vice Chair

14 ATTEST:

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17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 Municipal Clerk