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.

WHEREAS, stewardship of our economy and our environment is a critical responsibility for all Alaskans and is necessary to ensure health and opportunity for future generations; and

WHEREAS, climate change is having a costly effect on Alaska’s infrastructure and overall economy due to thawing permafrost, increased flood and landslide risk, and larger urban and rural wildfires; and

WHEREAS, the national security establishment, including the U.S. military, intelligence, and homeland security have identified climate change as a substantial national security risk and are acting to address it; and

WHEREAS, Anchorage is home to the largest number of sport and commercial fishermen in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the absorption of excess carbon dioxide in oceans is causing ocean acidification, which disrupts the food web that sustains our seafood industry, Alaska’s largest private employer, as well as the subsistence needs across Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the loss of coastal sea ice, sea level rise, and extreme weather events are causing coastal erosion that threatens Alaska communities and contributes to forced migration of rural Alaskans; and

WHEREAS, climate change has already contributed to sea ice decline, ocean warming and ocean acidification; and

WHEREAS, die-offs and depletion of several Alaska species are attributed to warmer air and ocean temperatures and food chain disruption; and

WHEREAS, the snow drought and lower warmer water levels in lakes and rivers is disrupting rural travel and stressing fish populations; and

WHEREAS, the short- and long-term costs associated with the above climate risks represent increasingly significant expenditures for citizens, businesses and governments alike; and

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WHEREAS, these changes are expected to continue into the future with increasing temperatures; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation called The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (H.R. 763), would enact a national carbon fee on fossil fuels, based on the amount of carbon dioxide a fuel emits when burned; and

WHEREAS, for efficient administration, this fee would be levied as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the ports of entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, this national, revenue-neutral carbon fee, starting at a relatively low rate and increasing steadily over future years, is a market-based solution that would stimulate the economy while sending a clear and predictable price signal to businesses and individuals to develop and use low-carbon energy resources; and

WHEREAS, this revenue-neutral carbon fee would be returned to American families in the form of a dividend, thus, putting money into people’s hands to boost the economy, while not increasing the size of government; and

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

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

WHEREAS, this national carbon fee would make the United States a leader in mitigating climate change, advance clean energy technologies, exceed the U.S. Paris commitments, and motivate other countries to enact similar carbon fees; thereby reducing global carbon dioxide emissions; now, therefore,

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

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

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

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would be enough to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions to climate-safe levels by 2050, with the fees returned to Americans households as a monthly dividend.

Section 3. The Municipal Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to Senator Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan, and Congressman Don Young.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 9th day of April, 2019.

Vice Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk