

RESOLUTION #549

Urging Congress to Support HR 763

WHEREAS increases in global average temperatures, the number and intensity of extreme weather events, sea level rise, and the melting of glacial and Arctic ice, indicate that the global climate is changing; and

WHEREAS the greater Chequamegon Bay area has experienced two 500-year extreme rain events in the past three years, which have caused extensive damage to area roads, bridges, culverts, and other infrastructure; and

WHEREAS studies by the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts project that if climate change continues unchecked, the area will experience increasingly warmer temperatures, especially during the winter months, and increasing amounts of precipitation and extreme rain events; and

WHEREAS such changes are likely to have substantial adverse impacts on area highways and roads and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS such changes may also have adverse effects on the area's forests and timber industry by decreasing suitable habitat for such commercially important species as paper birch and quaking aspen, increasing the risk of wildfires, and increasing stress from forest pests, diseases, and non-native species; and

WHEREAS such changes may also have adverse impacts on area agriculture by increasing erosion from extreme rain events, hampering access to fields at critical times, causing alterations in late-winter freeze/thaw cycles and causing increases in agricultural pests and diseases; and

WHEREAS such changes may also have adverse impacts on the area's winter tourism economy by decreasing the duration of winter snow cover and rendering winter conditions less predictable; and

WHEREAS The City of Bayfield has been a local governmental leader in sustainable development, having formally [declared its commitment to sustainability in 2006](#); having become a [Wisconsin Energy Independent Community in 2009](#); and having become a charter [Wisconsin Green Tier Legacy Community in 2010](#); and

WHEREAS the above-described impacts of climate change, if not effectively addressed, are likely to have substantial adverse effects on the economy and well-being of the City of Bayfield and its ability to achieve a sustainable future; and

WHEREAS recent reports by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the US government indicate that to avoid the worst potential impacts of climate change, urgent action is needed to reduce carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS in order to reduce carbon emissions most effectively and efficiently, leading economists (including four past chairs of the Federal Reserve Board, 27 Nobel Laureates, and 15 past chairs of the Council of Economic Advisors) recommend a gradually increasing carbon tax on fossil fuels, with the proceeds thereof returned to American households as dividends, and with a border adjustment system to protect the competitiveness of American firms both nationally and internationally; and

WHEREAS the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, introduced in the current Congress as H.R. 763, meets all of those criteria and has bipartisan support; and

WHEREAS competent studies have projected that if such legislation is enacted, it will result in a substantial reduction in carbon emissions as well as increases in GDP and employment; and that the dividends received by most low and moderate-income households will be more than enough to offset price increases due to the carbon fee;

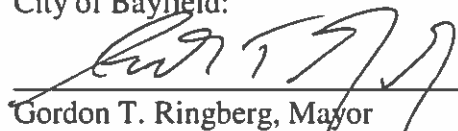
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Bayfield Common Council urges the United States Congress to pass H.R. 763 without delay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Representative Sean Duffy, Governor Tony Evers, State Senator Janet Bewley, and State Representative Beth Meyers.


Passed and adopted this 20th day of May, 2019.



City of Bayfield:



Gordon T. Ringberg, Mayor

Attest: 

Billie L. Hoopman, Clerk

Established in 1913.

City of Bayfield is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

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