

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL  
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

**RESOLUTION #19-144**

**RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO  
ADDRESS GLOBAL WARMING BY ENACTING THE  
ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019**

**WHEREAS**, overwhelming scientific evidence exists that human releases of greenhouse gases, especially CO<sub>2</sub> from the burning of fossil fuels, are warming the Earth's atmosphere and oceans and causing sea-level rise, loss of glaciers and sea ice, and alterations to weather systems.

**WHEREAS**, Earth's global surface temperature in 2018 was the fourth warmest since 1880, according to independent analyses by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Global temperatures in 2018 were 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the 1951 to 1980 mean, and the past five years are, collectively, the warmest years in the modern record.

**WHEREAS**, the global atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> has now surpassed 410 parts per million; and conservative scientific models estimate that to achieve climate stabilization and avoid dangerous climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be brought to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

**WHEREAS**, recent research results indicate that global warming appears to be destabilizing polar ice caps, leading to increased rates of ice melt, which could trigger sea level rise beyond the high end of previous estimates, perhaps on the order of a meter or more within the next 50 years,

**WHEREAS**, as a coastal state, New Jersey is especially vulnerable to sea level rise and resultant flooding of coastal areas, and is also exposed to threats to infrastructure and to agriculture and to increased risk of droughts, inland floods, heat stress episodes, wildfires, and loss of species from global warming.

**WHEREAS**, Hopewell Township is committed to preserving its environment and human welfare and has put major effort into becoming more sustainable. However, despite its best efforts to promote sustainability, preserve wildlife and the environment, and protect the health of residents, life within the Township cannot be sustainable if the State, the Nation, and the Earth itself are not on a sustainable trajectory.

**WHEREAS**, there is rising interest among Americans in taking action to minimize the dangers of climate change.

**WHEREAS**, the environmental, health, and social costs of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but rather these externalized costs are borne by all persons without their consent.

**WHEREAS**, to begin to correct this market failure, Congress can impose a national carbon fee on the extraction, production, or importation of fossil fuels, based on the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> the fuel will emit when burned.

**WHEREAS**, studies indicate that a steadily increasing, revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend program, with the fee returned to households, would significantly reduce carbon emissions without harming the economy and would actually benefit lower- and middle-income Americans, would encourage businesses to develop and use non-carbon based energy sources, could be readily implemented, and could be structured to include border tariff adjustments on products imported from countries without carbon pricing, and refunds of carbon fees paid to exporters, so as to maintain the global competitiveness of U.S. businesses.

**WHEREAS**, the Hopewell Township Committee, in its resolution of July 10, 2017, urged the U.S. Congress to enact and the President to sign without delay a fee on carbon-based fuels to be collected at a point as close to where those fuels enter the economy as practical; that that fee start low and increase steadily and predictably to achieve the goal of reducing U.S. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to 20% of 1990 levels by 2050; and that all revenue, net of administrative costs, should be returned as a dividend to all U.S. households in equal measure, and

**WHEREAS**, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763, which would implement a program essentially identical to that which the Township asked for has been introduced to the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Hopewell Township Committee urges the U.S. Congress to enact and the President to sign without delay the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Hopewell Township Committee urges Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman to co-sponsor the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 and encourage its passage by the U.S. Congress; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Hopewell Township Committee urges neighboring municipalities to similarly call on their federal Representatives to co-sponsor the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 and encourage its passage by the U.S. Congress.

Date Adopted: April 15, 2019

**CERTIFICATION**

I, Laurie E. Gompf, Municipal Clerk, of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee at the regular meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2019, in the Municipal Building, Hopewell Township, New Jersey.



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Laurie E. Gompf, RMC  
Municipal Clerk