

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-0486

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO TAKE PROMPT ACTION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND MITIGATE ITS IMPACTS BY ENACTING THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019 OR SIMILAR LEGISLATION**

**WHEREAS**, Southeast Florida is one of the most vulnerable areas in the country to climate change impacts, especially sea level rise; and

**WHEREAS**, United Nations climate scientists have said that the world has only until the year 2030 to make massive and unprecedented changes to global energy infrastructure to limit climate change consequences to moderate levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the world's climate scientists believe that to achieve climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, including carbon dioxide emissions, must be reduced; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County (“the Board”) supports climate change mitigation policies and practices, as evident by the County’s commitment to and participation in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (“the Climate Compact”); and

**WHEREAS**, the Board adopted the Climate Compact’s 2019 Federal Legislative Principles and Priorities, which included supporting a national price on carbon emissions, especially revenue-neutral and public-dividend proposals, to ensure that the full environmental, health, and social costs of greenhouse gas emissions are included in fossil fuel prices; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Congress is already exploring efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through the work of the Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus; and

**WHEREAS**, a national revenue-neutral carbon fee would demonstrate U.S. leadership in mitigating climate change and developing clean energy technologies, motivate other countries to enact similar carbon fees, and result in reducing global carbon dioxide emissions without the need for complex international agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Congress can enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, H.R. 763, to impose a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the amount of carbon

dioxide the fuel will emit when burned and allocate the collected proceeds to all U.S. households in equal shares via a monthly dividend; and

**WHEREAS**, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763, protects low- and middle-income citizens from the economic impact of rising prices resulting from the carbon fee by allocating an equal monthly per-person dividend payment to all American households from the fossil fuel fees collected. The total value of all monthly dividend payments shall represent 100% of the net carbon fees collected per month; and

**WHEREAS**, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763, encourages market-driven innovation in clean energy technologies and market efficiencies that will reduce harmful pollution and leave a healthier, more stable, and more prosperous nation for future generations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:**

Section 1: The foregoing recitals are hereby adopted and ratified.

Section 2: The Board requests that the U.S. Congress take prompt actions to address climate change and mitigate its effects by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels by implementing effective policies and programs to meet that end.

Section 3: The Board urges the U.S. Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763 or similar legislation.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner Weinroth, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kerner, and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Commissioner Mack Bernard, Mayor	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Dave Kerner, Vice Mayor	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Hal R. Valeche	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Robert S. Weinroth	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Mary Lou Berger	<u>Aye</u>
Commissioner Melissa McKinlay	<u>Aye</u>

The Mayor thereupon declared the Resolution duly passed and adopted this

16th day of April, 2019.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND  
ITS LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

By:   
County Attorney

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA, BY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SHARON R. BOCK, CLERK

By:   
Deputy Clerk 