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
Commissioner Dave Kerner, Vice Mayor
Commissioner Hal R. Valeche
Commissioner Gregg K. Weiss
Commissioner Robert S. Weinroth
Commissioner Mary Lou Berger
Commissioner Melissa McKinlay

Aye
Aye
Aye
Aye
Aye
Aye
Aye
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: [Signature] County Attorney

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

By: [Signature] Deputy Clerk

FLORIDA