

RESOLUTION NO. 13-19

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019 (H.R. 763)

WHEREAS, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a special report in October 2018 on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, warning that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if carbon emissions are allowed to increase at the current rate, and that we have only 12 years left to make massive and unprecedented changes to global energy infrastructure to limit global warming to moderate levels; and

WHEREAS, the United States government released its Fourth Annual Climate Assessment in November 2018 reporting that the impacts of climate change are already being felt in communities across the country, and that more frequent and intense extreme weather and climate-related events, as well as changes in average climate conditions, are expected to continue to damage infrastructure, ecosystems, and social systems that provide essential benefits to communities; and

WHEREAS, conservative estimates by the world's climate scientists state that to achieve climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be brought to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, to begin to correct this market failure, Representative Theodore E. Deutch introduced the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 to assess a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the amount of CO₂ fuel will emit when burned and allocate the collected proceeds to all U.S. households in equal shares in the form of a monthly dividend; and

WHEREAS, as stated in the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee starting at a relatively low rate of \$15 per ton of CO₂ equivalent emissions and resulting in equal charges per ton of CO₂ equivalent emissions potential in each type of fuel or greenhouse gas should be assessed to begin to lower what are now dangerously high CO₂ emissions. The yearly increase in carbon fees including other greenhouse gases, shall be at least \$10 per ton of CO₂ equivalent each year, with the Department of Energy determining whether an increase larger than \$10 per ton per year is needed to achieve program goals; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 specifies that, in order to protect low and middle income citizens from the economic impact of rising prices due to the carbon fee, equal monthly per-person dividend payments shall be made to all U.S. households (½ payment per child under 19 years old) each month 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 will lead to a decrease in America's CO₂ emissions of 40% after 12 years, an increase in national employment of 2.1 million jobs after 10 years, and encourage market-driven innovation of clean energy technologies and market efficiencies which will reduce harmful pollution and leave a healthier, more stable, and more prosperous nation for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the city Richmond is especially threatened by climate change impacts such as sea level rise and extreme weather events due to our location within the San Francisco Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 fulfills the Richmond City Council's request unanimously adopted in Resolution No.100-16 on October 18, 2016, urging the United States Congress to enact a federal carbon fee and dividend.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council urges Congress to enact without delay the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to Representative DeSaulnier and Senators Feinstein and Harris.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting thereof held April 2, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Bates, Johnson, Martinez, Myrick, Willis,
Vice Chair Choi, and Mayor Butt.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.

PAMELA CHRISTIAN

CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND
(SEAL)

Approved:

TOM BUTT

Mayor


Approved as to form:

BRUCE GOODMILLER

City Attorney

State of California }
County of Contra Costa : ss.
City of Richmond }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 13-19**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a regular meeting held on April 2, 2019.



Pamela Christian, Clerk of the City of Richmond