



RESOLUTION



Resolution No. R06-2019-1329

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING H.R. 763 THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT

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

WHEREAS, studies by the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts project that if climate change continues unchecked, Ashland County 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 Ashland County's highways and roads and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, such changes may also have adverse effects on Ashland County'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 Ashland County agriculture by increasing erosion from extreme rain events, hampering access to fields at critical times, and causing alterations in late-winter freeze/thaw cycles; and

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

WHEREAS, Ashland County's Comprehensive Plan provides that the County will "continue to support the main economic drivers of the county including manufacturing, forestry, tourism, agriculture, and health services"; and "maintain a high-quality natural resource base and preserve our air, land, and water at the highest level for future generations;" and "be a leader in actively promoting renewable resources of energy and efficiency.;" and

WHEREAS, the County is already a leader in transitioning to renewable energy, having made a major investment in Xcel Energy's Ashland community solar garden; 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



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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 Ashland County Board of Supervisors urges the United States Congress to pass H.R. 763 without delay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ashland County 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.

Dated at the City of Ashland, Wisconsin on this 20th day of June, 2019.

Signed:

Art Ruess

Kathy S. Schutte

Rush Koyuk

Marty J. D.

Ella Torgu

Carl Kumbly

George Mabe

William Metzger

William

John L. W.

Zick Pufall

Clarence Campbell

CLR CD

MEMBERS OF THE ASHLAND COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE June 20, 2019, 2019

EXCUSED

NAGRO, LAURA	DIST. 1	✓					
MACKENZIE, MATTHEW S.	DIST. 2	.	✓				
TEAGUE, ELLA	DIST. 3	✓					
METZINGER, WILLIAM	DIST. 4	✓					
CAMPBELL, CLARENCE L.	DIST. 5	✓					
KABASA, JOYCE PEPE ✕	DIST. 6					✓	
KABASA, GARY A. ✕	DIST. 7					✓	
ORTMAN, CHARLES R.	DIST. 8	✓					
WILLIAMSON, DONNA K.	DIST. 9	✓					
PUFALL, RICHARD L.	DIST. 10	✓					
DAOUST, PATRICK	DIST. 11		✓				
ROSE, JOSEPH M.	DIST. 12	✓					
COUTURE, NORMAN	DIST. 13	✓					
KORPELA, RICHARD	DIST. 14	✓					
MIKA, GEORGE	DIST. 15	✓					
VITEK, MARTIN J.	DIST. 16	✓					
RUSSO, PETER	DIST. 17	✓					
KUBLEY, CARL	DIST. 18	✓					
WIENER, JOHN	DIST. 19	✓					
SCHUTTE, KATHY L.	DIST. 20	✓					
MERTIG, GARY A. ✕	DIST. 21						✓

APPEARED LATER: