

# RESOLUTION

No. 17519

## RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HR 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*, the Chequamegon Bay area has experienced two 500-year extreme rain events in the past three years, which have caused extensive damage to area roads, bridges, culverts, and other infrastructure; and

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

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

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

*WHEREAS*, the City of Ashland has been a local governmental leader in sustainable development, having become one of the first eco-municipalities in the United States in 2005, a Wisconsin Green Tier Legacy Community in 2010, a member of the Compact of Mayors (now The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy) in 2015, and a Silver Designated Sol Smart Community in 2017; and

*WHEREAS*, the City of Ashland's priorities, as set forth in its Comprehensive Plan, include setting a strong example of sustainability, with goals to increase energy efficiency and use of renewable energy; and

*WHEREAS*, the above-described impacts of climate change, if not effectively addressed, are likely to have substantial adverse effects on the economy and well-being of the City of Ashland and its ability to achieve a sustainable future; 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

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**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


**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 City of Ashland Common Council urges the United States Congress to pass H.R. 763 without delay; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City 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.

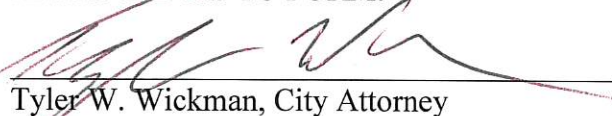
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Councilperson

PASSED: July 30, 2019

ATTEST:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Oliphant, City Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra S. Lewis, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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Tyler W. Wickman, City Attorney