Proclamation on Carbon Fee and Dividend Proposal before the U.S. Congress

WHEREAS, Maine recognizes that the health of our citizens is dependent on the high quality of our air, water, and natural resources and that the health of much of the state's economy, including agriculture, forestry, fishing and tourism are favored by a stable climate; and

WHEREAS, the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute agrees with the consensus of climate scientists worldwide, that the climate is rapidly changing as the result of increased concentration of pollutant emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases derived from burning carbon fuels; and

WHEREAS, the State of Maine has pursued efforts through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to reduce the burning of carbon fuels for generation of electricity, and is on target to reduce all emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020, with a targeted 80% reduction by 2050; and

WHEREAS, putting a price on carbon fuels is widely accepted by economists as being the most effective means to achieve this goal; with revenues returned to the economy through equitable dividends distributed to households; and

WHEREAS, the carbon-fee-and-dividend proposal is expected to be revenue-neutral, effective, good for people, good for the economy, and bipartisan;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the undersigned Councilors of the Town of Hampden

1. Strongly urges the U.S. Congress to enact a carbon fee and dividend system (HR 763) that both: (a) reduces CO2-equivalent emissions to 10% of 1990 levels; and (b) encourages similar actions by other nations trading with the United States by suitable carbon-content-based tariffs for imports from, and rebates for exports to, nations that have not taken similar actions; and
2. That the U.S. Congress implement this policy with the speed appropriate to the gravity and urgency of the situation, and in recognition of the benefits that will be realized by a transition to clean energy.

Town Clerk:

Paula A. Scott

AUG 0 5 2019

RESOLVED by a majority of the Town Council: