

## RESOLUTION NO. 2019-37

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEVADA CITY URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019

**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**, Nevada City faces changing climate including expanding periods of severe High Sierra drought, rising snow pack elevations reducing water storage, and increasing summer temperatures of extreme heat, which together threaten regional water supply, compromise human health, cause stress and disease to forests landscapes and portend expanding catastrophic fire; and

**WHEREAS**, Nevada City council and staff are taking steps to address carbon by executing the City's *Energy Action Plan* by 2020, by implementing *City Resolution for 100% Renewable Electricity by 2030 and 100% Renewable Energy by 2050*, and by City participation in the California Beacon and Sustainable Energy and Economic Development programs to obtain significant solar resources for the Nevada City community; and

**WHEREAS**, Nevada City's economic, social and environmental wellbeing are tied to the State of California and to the United States, national leadership and Congressional action addressing fossil fuel carbon release into the atmosphere is critical to our local community; and

**WHEREAS**, the current Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R 763 excludes the industry of Agriculture or the Military, the Nevada City Council urges Congress, in the future to consider inclusion of the Military as a heavy carbon user/fossil fuel user as part of the Act, and

**WHEREAS**, as stated in the *Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763*, a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee starting at a relatively low rate of \$15 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions and resulting in equal charges per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emissions potential in each type of fuel or greenhouse gas should be assessed to begin to lower what are now dangerously high CO<sub>2</sub> 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, H.R. 763*, 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 American 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, H.R. 763*, encourages 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 *Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763*, will, after 12 years, lead to a decrease in America's CO2 emissions of 40 percent and an increase in national employment of 2.1 million jobs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Nevada City urges the United States Congress to enact without delay the *Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763*, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Manager or City Clerk/Deputy City Clerk, no later than 30 days after passage of this Resolution, shall transmit copies of this Resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each U.S. Senator and Representative from the State of California in the Congress of the United States, and to nearby city and county governments urging that they pass similar Resolutions.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** at the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Nevada City on the 10th day of July, 2019 by the following vote:

**AYES: MINETT, PARKER, SENUM, STRAWSER, MOBERG**

**NOES:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

**ATTEST:**

  
Reinette Senum, Mayor

  
Niel Locke, City Clerk