RESOLUTION NO. 2019-25

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

RECITALS

Whereas, an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels in October of 2018 warning that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate; and

Whereas, the United Nations climate science body said in a monumental climate report 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 of 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, presently the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but rather these externalized costs are borne directly and indirectly by all Americans and global citizens; and

Whereas, to begin to correct this market failure, Congress can enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act to assess a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the amount of CO2 the 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, for efficient administration, the fossil fuels fee can be applied once, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States; 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 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, 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; and

Whereas, border adjustments - carbon content-based tariffs on products imported from countries

without comparable carbon pricing, and refunds to our exporters of carbon fees paid - can

maintain the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in global markets; and

Whereas, a national carbon fee can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and will respond to

the urgency of the climate crisis because the federal government already has in place

mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service, needed to implement and enforce the fee, and

already collects fees from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

Whereas, a national revenue-neutral carbon fee would make the United States a leader in

mitigating climate change and in the clean energy technologies of the 21st century and would

provide incentive to other countries to enact similar carbon fees, reducing global CO2 emissions

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-25
without the need for complex international agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHLAND, OREGON, RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council of the City of Ashland, Oregon, urges the United States Congress to enact without delay the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763.

Section 2. The City Administrator, no later than thirty (30) days after passage of this Resolution No. 2019-25, shall transmit, or cause to be transmitted, 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 Oregon in the Congress of the United States, and to nearby city and county governments urging that they pass similar resolutions.

Section 3. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

This resolution was duly PASSED and ADOPTED this 16th day of August, 2019, and takes effect upon signing by the Mayor.

Melissa Huhtala, City Recorder

SIGNED and APPROVED this 16th day of August, 2019.

John Stromberg, Mayor

Reviewed as to form:

David Lohman, City Attorney