

RESOLUTION NO. M-2046

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON CALLING FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PASS A GREEN NEW DEAL AND THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019.

WHEREAS, the Olympia City Council wants the children and grandchildren of this community protected from the risks of climate destruction; and

WHEREAS, an October 2018 United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report says we have only until 2030 to limit devastating global warming and avoid a climate change catastrophe; and

WHEREAS, the October 2018 IPCC report also makes clear that every bit of warming matters, so every fraction of a degree less of warming will save lives and pay dividends across the world's economies; and

WHEREAS, the US Global Change Research Program's November 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment reported that impacts of climate change are already being felt in communities across the country; and

WHEREAS, an inadequate response to the changing climate will increase economic and environmental disruptions that threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure, including, but not limited to: severe storms, longer and hotter heat waves, worsening flood and drought cycles, growing invasive species and insect problems, accelerated species extinction rates, rising sea levels, increased wildfires, poor air quality, and a dramatic increase in refugees from climate impacted lands, and many more consequences; and

WHEREAS, the most negative impacts of climate change generally fall upon frontline communities that are underrepresented, such as lower-income communities or communities of color, such that they are bearing the initial burden of climate change, but are least equipped to adapt to these impacts; and

WHEREAS, doing what is necessary to adequately address the climate crisis requires a national mobilization of a scope and scale that is a historic opportunity to address inequities caused and exacerbated by the fossil fuel economy, as well as providing unprecedented levels of prosperity and economic security for all people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, US House Resolution 109, released on February 7, 2019, recognizes the duty of the federal government to create a Green New Deal; and

WHEREAS, federal Green New Deal legislation would create a detailed mobilization plan to:

- Within a decade, achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers;
- Create millions of good, high-wage jobs and ensure prosperity and economic security for all people of the United States;
- Invest in the infrastructure and industry of the United States to sustainably meet the challenges of the 21st century;

- Secure for all people of the United States for generations to come:
 - clean air and water;
 - climate and community resiliency;
 - healthy food;
 - access to nature;
 - and a sustainable environment; and
- Promote justice and equity by stopping current, preventing future, and repairing historic oppression of indigenous communities, communities of color, migrant communities, deindustrialized communities, depopulated rural communities, the poor, low-income workers, women, the elderly, the unhoused, people with disabilities, and youth; and

WHEREAS, presently the environmental, health, and social costs of greenhouse gas emissions are not included in the price of fossil fuels, but rather these externalized costs are borne directly and indirectly by all of us, and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Olympia City Council unanimously endorsed Washington Initiative 1631, which would charge pollution fees on greenhouse gas pollutants, thereby supporting a market-driven mechanism to encourage and empower businesses, residents and governments to reduce and replace their consumption of fossil fuels with renewable and other less carbon intensive energy sources, conservation and heightened efficiency as an important element of addressing climate change; and

WHEREAS, bi-partisan federal legislation titled the “Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019” (H.R. 763) has been proposed to assess a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the climate impact of the fuel and allocate the collected proceeds to all American households in equal shares in the form of a monthly dividend; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act includes carbon pricing border adjustments that will incentivize other countries to adopt a similar carbon fee, that will prevent so-called “exporting of pollution” by levying the carbon fees on imports from countries without such a fee, thereby protecting American companies that rely on exports; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act includes a mechanism to adjust the carbon fees to meet science-based environmental targets; and

WHEREAS, local governments calling for the United States Congress to pass a Green New Deal will demonstrate widespread popular support for necessary and just climate action;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE as follows:

Section 1. The Olympia City Council hereby calls on the Congress of the United States to, as soon as possible, pass a Green New Deal based on US House 109 Resolution released on February 7, 2019.

Section 2. The Olympia City Council hereby urges the United States Congress to enact, without delay, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763.

Section 3. The City Council urges all voters in Olympia and throughout Washington State to encourage their federal elected officials to support H.R. 763 and the Green New Deal.

Section 4. The City Council directs the City Manager, no later than 30 days after passage of this Resolution, to transmit copies to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of

NOW, THEREFORE, THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY RESOLVE that the Council commits to a vision and sense of urgency in becoming a carbon-neutral community. While continuing work on the Regional Climate Mitigation Plan referenced above, the City commits to working with the youth of Olympia on the collective actions and strategies necessary to achieve a goal of net-zero emissions by 2040.

PASSED BY THE OLYMPIA CITY COUNCIL this 23rd day of July 2019.

Cheryl Seiby
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Debbie L. Seltzer
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Mark Barber
CITY ATTORNEY