

**TOWN OF RED HOOK
RESOLUTION NO. 93
DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 2019**

**RESOLUTION URGING UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS
THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT (H.R. 763)**

WHEREAS, climate scientists worldwide are in near-unanimous agreement that the planet Earth is warming rapidly and to a degree that is perilous to human civilization, to numerous species, and to the global ecosystem, and

WHEREAS, human activity is a significant contributor to global warming, especially through the accelerating combustion of fossil fuels that create carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases as a byproduct, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Red Hook developed an Energy and Climate Action Plan in 2012 and has implemented several initiatives in support of its goals; and

WHEREAS, a prompt and major shift away from fossil fuels is a necessary cornerstone to any meaningful response to climate change, and

WHEREAS, the recently published Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change SR1.5 Report (<https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>) states that, "Policies reflecting a high price on emissions are necessary" as a key component of any effort to limit global temperatures increases to 1.5 degree centigrade, and

WHEREAS this IPCC report also suggests that any carbon pricing policy should be designed to, "balance between incentivizing low-carbon behavior and mitigating the adverse distributional consequences of higher energy prices", and

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763) has been introduced in Congress and would establish a steadily increasing fee on fossil fuels at the point of their entry into the economy; such a fee would be straightforward and make effective use of free-market mechanisms to promote the transition to greater energy conservation and renewable sources of energy, and

WHEREAS, the act would return all revenues (minus 3% for administration) to each American as a monthly dividend, to offset expected higher prices for goods and services, and

WHEREAS, this revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend is an effective method to reduce carbon emissions for the following reasons:

1. The fee would motivate everyone to conserve and adopt renewable energy without the need for extensive governmental regulatory controls or infrastructure, encouraging consumers and the market to replace consumption of carbon-based energy with innovative, sustainable energy sources, whether by being more efficient or choosing other, less carbon intensive energy sources;

2. The fee would employ a market approach to encourage innovative processes, not only in energy production, but also in every field in which energy is consumed, e.g. electric cars, mass transportation, architectural planning and construction, water heating, lighting, and air conditioning in residential and commercial buildings;
3. Levying the fee at the point of production would be more efficient, less expensive and provide more accurate signals than would doing so at the point of consumption;
4. The fee would incentivize the development and use of alternative energies and attendant technologies, eliminating the need for government subsidies that attempt to forecast alternative energy winners and losers;
5. Because the fee is levied on the same basis on all businesses, it is fairer to every business and easier to administer than alternatives, such as a cap and trade system;
6. A border adjustment would assess a fee on goods traded with countries without a comparable carbon price, thereby maintaining the competitiveness of US businesses and discouraging relocation to such countries and also encouraging other countries to price carbon.

WHEREAS, such a policy would protect lower and middle-income households, as the dividend would allow more than 70% of American households to benefit financially, break even, or have only minimal increased costs (<0.2% income) from this policy; the policy would also create jobs, as the dividend puts money back into local economies, and

WHEREAS, further delay in responding to this crisis increases the risk of catastrophic climate change, imminently threatens low-lying coastal areas and land and sea species, threatens water supplies, increases the frequency of severe weather events, increases the cost of undertaking adequate responses, and increases risks to the global economy; and

WHEREAS, the Town has determined that the proposed action is best described as a local legislative decision concerning routine administration and management considered a "Type II" action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA");

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Red Hook, on the recommendation of the Town's Conservation Advisory Council, that the Town of Red Hook endorses a carbon fee and dividend and urges our representatives in the United States Congress to enact it into law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of the resolution be sent to President Donald Trump, Vice-President Michael Pence, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Charles Schumer, Representative Antonio Delgado, New York State Senator Sue Serino, New York State Assembly Member Kevin Cahill, and the New York Association of Towns.

EXTRACT OF MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York was convened in public session at the Town Hall, 7340 South Broadway, Red Hook on September 25, 2019, at 7:30 p.m., local time.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Robert McKeon, and, upon roll being called, the following members were:

PRESENT:

Supervisor Robert McKeon
Councilmember Harry Colgan
Councilmember Sarah Imboden
Councilmember Christine Kane - absent
Councilmember William O'Neill

ABSENT: Christine Kane

The following persons were ALSO PRESENT: Christine Chale, Attorney for the Town

The following resolution was offered by McKeon, seconded by Imboden, to wit;

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The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote on a roll call, which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Robert McKeon	VOTING: Aye
Councilmember Harry Colgan	VOTING: Aye
Councilmember Sarah Imboden	VOTING: Aye
Councilmember Christine Kane	VOTING: Absent
Councilmember William O'Neill	VOTING: Aye

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

CERTIFICATE OF RECORDING OFFICER

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

(1) She is the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Town of Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York (hereinafter called the "Town") and the custodian of the records of the Town, including the minutes of the proceedings of the Town Board, and is duly authorized to execute this certificate.

(2) Attached hereto is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Town Board held on the 25th day of September, 2019 and entitled:

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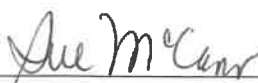
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(3) Said meeting was duly convened and held and said resolution was duly adopted in all respects in accordance with law and the regulations of the Town. To the extent required by law or said regulations, due and proper notice of said meeting was given. A legal quorum of members of the Board was present throughout said meeting, and a legally sufficient number of members voted in the proper manner for the adoption of the resolution. All other requirements and proceedings under law, said regulations or otherwise incident to said meeting and the adoption of the resolution, including any publication, if required by law, have been duly fulfilled, carried out and otherwise observed.

(4) The seal appearing below constitutes the official seal of the Town and was duly affixed by the undersigned at the time this certificate was signed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto set her hand this 26 day of September, 2019.

-SEAL-



Sue McCann
Town Clerk