

Resolution of the City of Jersey City, N.J.

File No. Res. 19-817
Agenda No. 10.14
Approved: Oct 10 2019



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

COUNCIL offered and moved adoption of the following resolution:

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 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, data compiled by the World Meteorological Organization presented to the UN summit in September 2019 shows the average global temperature for 2015–2019 as on course to be the warmest of any equivalent period on record; 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 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, New Jersey's proximity to the coast puts its transportation infrastructure under immense risk, effecting the billion dollar coastal tourism industry and six of the nation's top 10 U.S. freight gateways, not to mention 60 percent of the state's residents; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey agriculture is projected to suffer 10%+ losses in dairy, fish, shellfish and fruit due to lack of water availability, ocean acidification, and the increase of pests by 2100; and

WHEREAS, the integral ecological resource and ecosystem, the New Jersey Meadowlands, is under threat from rising sea levels; and

WHEREAS, Hudson County has some of the worst air pollution in the nation according to the American Lung Association, receiving an 'F' grade for its copious amounts of orange and red alert days in 2017; 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, the State of New Jersey has committed to uphold the standards of the Paris Agreement as a member of the U.S. Climate Alliance coalition; 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

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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 without the need for complex international agreements; and

WHEREAS, the city of Jersey City has previously approved, on October 24, 2018, Resolution 18-932 urging the United States Congress to enact a revenue-neutral carbon fee, which the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763 is such, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the City of Jersey City, NJ, 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, 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 New Jersey in the Congress of the United States, and to nearby city and county governments urging that they pass similar resolutions.

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APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM



Brian Platt, Business Administrator



Peter Baker, Corporation Counsel

Certification Required

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE – Oct 10													7-0	
	AYE	NAY	N.V.	Absent		AYE	NAY	N.V.	Absent		AYE	NAY	N.V.	Absent
RIDLEY				✓	YUN				✓	RIVERA	✓			
PRINZ-AREY	✓				SOLOMON	✓				WATTERMAN	✓			
BOGGIANO	✓				ROBINSON	✓				LAVARRO, PRES.	✓			

N.V. –
(Abstain)

Adopted at a meeting of the Municipal Council of the City of Jersey.



Rolando R. Lavarro, Jr, President of Council



Robert Byrne, City Clerk

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RESOLUTION FACT SHEET -

This summary sheet is to be attached to the front of any resolution that is submitted for Council consideration. Incomplete or vague fact sheets will be returned with the resolution.

Project Manager

Mira Prinz-Arey, Councilperson	201-547-5000	MPrinz-Arey@jcnj.org
Division	Municipal Council	

Note: Project Manager must be available by phone during agenda meeting (Wednesday prior to council meeting @ 1:00 p.m.)

Purpose

Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019

Cost (Identify all sources and amounts)

Non-contractual

Contract term (include all)

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Approved by
Brian Platt, Business Administrator

Status:
Approved - Oct 01 2019