



NEW PALTZ VILLAGE BOARD & TOWN COUNCIL

Resolution No. 61 of 2019

The following was presented by Deputy Mayor Tobin; Sec'd by Trustee Wojcik

Date of Adoption 2019-09-11

Names	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Mayor Rogers	X			
Deputy Mayor Tobin	X			
Trustee Wheeler-Murray	X			
Trustee Wojcik	X			
Trustee Zipp	X			
Totals	5	0	0	0

The following was presented by Deputy Supervisor Torres; Sec'd by Councilmember Seyfert-Lillis

Date of Adoption 2019-09-11

Names	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Supervisor Bettez	X			
Deputy Supervisor Torres	X			
Councilmember Brownstein				X
Councilmember Irwin				X
Councilmember Seyfert-Lillis	X			
Totals	3	0	0	2



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Resolution No. 61 of 2019

**RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE AND TOWN OF NEW PALTZ BOARDS URGING
THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND
CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019**

WHEREAS, the Village and Town of New Paltz have a record of acknowledging the reality of climate change as well as the Village and Town's responsibility to reduce its contribution to the causes of global warming, as evidenced by the Village and Town's creation of a Global Warming Task Force in 2004, the citizen-based Climate Action Coalition in 2007 and the joint action by the Village and Town to seek to become a certified Climate Smart Community and, most recently, the commissioning of a Greenhouse Gas Inventory; and

WHEREAS, the 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, 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, the State of New York has just enacted The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, committing the State of New York to reducing economy-wide emissions by 40% below 1990 levels before 2030 and by 85% below 1990 levels before 2050; and

WHEREAS, there is widespread agreement among economists that placing a steadily increasing price on carbon emissions will reduce fossil fuel usage and shift the economy towards greater efficiencies and alternative fuels; and



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WHEREAS, presently the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in the 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 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, 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



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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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village and Town of New Paltz, New York, 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 a Representative from the State of New York in the Congress of the United States, and to nearby city and county governments urging that they pass similar resolutions

The Resolution was thereupon adopted.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ariana Basco", is written over a horizontal line.

Ariana Basco, Deputy Clerk

A handwritten date "9/11/19" in blue ink is written over a horizontal line.

Date