



Mayor and Council

400 Witherspoon Street
Princeton, NJ 08540

Meeting: 08/26/19 06:00 PM
Department: Clerk

RESOLUTION 19-271

Resolution Urging the United States Congress to Enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019

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.

WHEREAS, the United Nations climate science body said in a monumental 2018 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, at present the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but rather are externalized costs 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 that the fuel will emit when burned (applied once, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States); 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 \$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** specifies that, in order to protect low-income 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 ($\frac{1}{2}$ 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** 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**, 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 Princeton Council, at its meeting held March 27, 2017, passed a Resolution, as urged by the Princeton Environmental Commission, urging the United States Congress to enact without delay a simple fee on carbon-based fuels to be collected once, as far upstream in the economy as practical; that the fee rate should start low and increase steadily and predictably to achieve the goal of reducing U.S. CO₂ emissions to 10% of 1990 levels by 2050; and that all revenue, net of administration, should be returned as a dividend to all U.S. households in equal measure, and

WHEREAS, the **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, H.R. 763**, which would implement a program essentially identical to that which the Town of Princeton asked for, has been introduced to the 116th Congress.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Princeton Council urges the United States Congress to enact without delay the **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763**, and

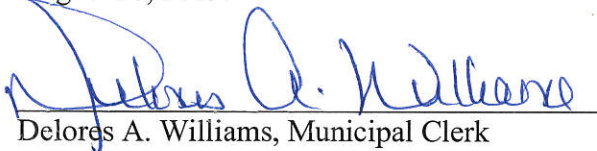
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Princeton Council expresses gratitude to our Congressional Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman for having become a co-sponsor of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Princeton Council urges other New Jersey municipalities and to similarly call on their federal Representatives to co-sponsor the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (other than those in Congressional Districts NJ07 and NJ08, who are already co-sponsors) and encourage its passage by the U.S. Congress.

PASSED AND ADOPTED as a resolution of the Mayor and Princeton Council of the Municipality of Princeton.

Councilperson	Absent	Present	1 st	2 nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Disqualified
Mr. Cohen		X	X		X			
Ms. Crumiller		X			X			
Ms. Fraga	X							
Ms. Niedergang		X					X	
Mr. Quinn	X							
Mr. Williamson		X		X	X			
Mayor Lempert		X						

I, Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk of Princeton, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of Princeton at a meeting held August 26, 2019.



Delores A. Williams, Municipal Clerk