

RECEIVED

OCT 22 2019

City Auditor & Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 20R-2861

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA SUPPORTING MEASURES TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE BY PRICING CARBON EMISSIONS; URGING THE FEDERAL DELEGATION TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the City Commission of Sarasota adopted Resolution No. 17R-2648 on June 19, 2017, committing to a community-wide target of powering the City with 100% renewable, zero emission energy sources not later than 2045, and municipal operations by not later than 2030; and

WHEREAS, the City published its Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan in late 2016; and

WHEREAS, supportive national and state policies which either incentivize or mandate the transition away from fossil fuels will be required for the City of Sarasota to efficiently and effectively achieve its committed transition to 100% renewable, zero emission energy sources by 2045; and

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, the United Nations climate science body said 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 such as Sarasota; and

WHEREAS, sea level rise associated with global warming slows the draining of inland waters thereby prolonging algal blooms; and

WHEREAS, sea level rise associated with global warming increases the impacts of storm surge and coastal erosion; 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, 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 citizens; and

WHEREAS, to begin to correct this market failure, Congress should enact bipartisan legislation to assess a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit when burned; and

WHEREAS, in order to protect low- and middle-income citizens from the economic impact of rising prices due to a carbon fee, equal monthly per-person dividend payments should be made to all American households each month from the fossil fuel fees collected; and

WHEREAS, a national carbon fee can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (H.R. 763) establishes a fair and effective carbon fee and dividend program, which after 12 years will lead to a decrease in America's CO₂ emissions of 40 percent and an increase in national employment of 2.1 million jobs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF SARASOTA, FLORIDA:

Section 1: The Sarasota City Commission requests that the Federal Delegation prioritize enactment of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (H.R. 763), or substantially similar policy that fairly, effectively, and quickly addresses the threats of climate change.

Section 2: The Sarasota City Commission instructs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Federal Delegation.


Section 3: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Sarasota upon reading by title only, after posting on the bulletin board at City Hall for at least three (3) days prior to adoption, as authorized by Article IV, Section 2, Charter of the City of Sarasota this 21st day of October, 2019.



Mayor Liz Alpert

ATTEST:



Shayla Griggs
Interim City Auditor and Clerk

Mayor Alpert

Vice Mayor Ahearn-Koch

Commissioner Brody

Commissioner Freeland Eddie

Commissioner Shaw