

A Resolution Urging the United States Congress to Enact H.R. 763, The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, a Revenue Neutral Carbon Fee

WHEREAS, the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report warned that warming of the climate is unequivocal and caused by human activity; and

WHEREAS, the imminent harm we will experience if global climate rises 2 degrees Celsius includes rising sea levels, crop failures, increased weather anomalies, and increased forest fires, droughts, and floods; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2014, two separate scientific papers were published in the Science and Geophysical Research Letter that documented dramatic retreats of Antarctic glaciers predicting that large-scale destruction of the West Antarctic ice sheet was likely now inevitable and would lead to sea level rises of ten feet or more; 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% 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 people all over the world; and

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

WHEREAS, for efficient administration, a fee will be placed on fossil fuels, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee starting at a relatively low rate and increasing steadily over future years is a market-based solution that would minimally disrupt the economy while sending a clear and predictable price signal to businesses to develop and use non-carbon-based energy resources; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens' Climate Education Corporation (CCEC) contracted a third party, Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. (REMI) to do a nation-wide macroeconomic study on the impact of a revenue-neutral carbon fee; and

WHEREAS, REMI's study predicted that, after 10 years, a revenue-neutral carbon fee would lead to a 33 percent decrease in CO₂ emissions, an increase in national employment of 2.1 million jobs, and an average monthly dividend of \$288 for a family of four; and

WHEREAS, border adjustment, carbon content-based tariffs on products imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing, and refunds to our exporters of carbon taxes 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 taxes from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

WHEREAS, a national 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 incentivize other countries to enact similar carbon taxes, reducing global CO₂ emissions without the need for complex international agreements;

WHEREAS, the City Council of Manitou Springs is committed to taking action on the climate crisis and protecting the health and welfare of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City Council adopted Resolution 1919 on September 17, 2019 establishing the commitment to have a sustainable environment and an ambitious response to Climate Change for the City of Manitou Springs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Manitou Springs aims to reduce carbon emissions from residential buildings, with a goal of 40% reduction in emissions by 2030;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS, COLORADO, THAT:

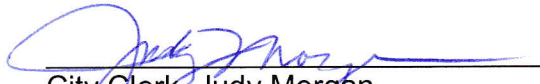
1. The City Council of the City of Manitou Springs urges the United States Congress to enact, without delay, H.R. 763;
2. The fee should be collected, as far upstream in the 2020 economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States;
3. The fee rate should start low and increase steadily and predictably, to achieve the goal of reducing U.S. CO₂ emissions to 10% of 1990 levels by 2050;
4. All fee revenue should be returned to households to protect low and middle income Americans from the impact of rising prices due to the fee;
5. The international competitiveness of U.S. businesses should be protected by using carbon content-based border adjustments.

Adopted at the meeting of the City Council of the City of Manitou Springs, Colorado, on this 3rd day of December, 2019.

Mayor and City Council:

By: 
Ken Jaray, Mayor

Attest:


City Clerk, Judy Morgan