

December 2, 2019

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF  
THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019 (H.R. 763)

WHEREAS, The Common Council of the City of Plattsburgh is committed to protecting City residents from the adverse economic and health effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and the connection between human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases, and warming of the planet; and

WHEREAS, climate disruption due to global warming—including destabilized weather patterns, extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and other serious impacts—threatens both the built environment and the ecosystems we depend on to sustain human existence; and

WHEREAS, the costs associated with extreme weather events and destabilized weather patterns are burdening businesses, taxpayers, municipal budgets, and families; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast is already experiencing warming temperatures, heavier downpours and increased precipitation<sup>1, 2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, increasing and unpredictable temperatures and rainfall are threatening our region's trout, salmon, and other fisheries; maple sugaring operations, the winter sports and tourism industries, and agriculture<sup>3</sup>; and

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.northcountrypublicradio.org/news/story/38116/20190225/adirondack-scientists-document-climate-change-impacts-on-wildlife-human-health>

<sup>2</sup> Palmer, Tim, "Climate Change Is Happening in New York's 21<sup>st</sup> District" @ [https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwuX\\_2YrtFByYXQ4MGVpdUtRRVh/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BwuX_2YrtFByYXQ4MGVpdUtRRVh/view)

<sup>3</sup> According to the National Climate Assessment, bud break for fruit trees is likely to be too early in one of three years, leading to frost damage and productivity loss. <https://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2019/03/how-will->

WHEREAS, warmer, wetter weather will continue to foster increasing populations of ticks and mosquitoes, sustaining the dramatic rise in the prevalence of Lyme disease, *and an increased risk of St. Louis, La Crosse and Eastern equine encephalitis, West Nile Virus, Zika Virus* and other arthropod borne diseases;<sup>4,5,6</sup> and

WHEREAS, increased rainfall, heavier downpours, and more powerful storms are already threatening *private property, City, County and State* roadways, culverts, the electrical grid and other critical infrastructure; and

*WHEREAS, these impacts will create more health risks due to increased runoff which will adversely affect waste management and water treatment facilities, and*  
7

*WHEREAS there is predicted to be hundreds of excess deaths per year in the Northeast region caused by extreme heat by 2050,*<sup>8,9</sup>

WHEREAS, pollution in our atmosphere due to burning fossil fuels increases the rate of asthma and the number of premature deaths in our region<sup>10</sup>; and

---

[global-warming-change-springtime/?utm\\_source=News+from+Yale+Climate+Connections+%28Daily%29&utm\\_campaign=bd94cebeac-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_07\\_31\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_31a3024b9b-bd94cebeac-19304777](https://global-warming-change-springtime/?utm_source=News+from+Yale+Climate+Connections+%28Daily%29&utm_campaign=bd94cebeac-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_07_31_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_31a3024b9b-bd94cebeac-19304777); <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/7/>

<sup>4</sup> Beard, CB, et al, (2016): Ch. 5: Vectorborne Diseases. U.S. Global Change Research Program @ <https://health2016.globalchange.gov/vectorborne-diseases>

<sup>5</sup> Githeko, Andrew et al; "Climate change and vector-born diseases: a regional analysis," Bulletin of the World Health Organization (2000) pp. 1141-1142 [https://www.who.int/bulletin/archives/78\(9\)1136.pdf](https://www.who.int/bulletin/archives/78(9)1136.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Palmer, T., "Warming welcomes parasites and diseases" @ [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M9IOA-wDSwL8BR8KmhjXArBXX\\_YKk2vd/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M9IOA-wDSwL8BR8KmhjXArBXX_YKk2vd/view)

<sup>7</sup> National Climate Assessment referenced by CNN @ <https://www.cnn.com/2018/11/27/health/climate-change-impact-by-region/index.html>

<sup>8</sup> Op. cit.

<sup>9</sup> Palmer, T. "The Great Global Heat Wave" @ [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M9IOA-wDSwL8BR8KmhjXArBXX\\_YKk2vd/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M9IOA-wDSwL8BR8KmhjXArBXX_YKk2vd/view)

<sup>10</sup> <https://climatenexus.org/climate-issues/health/the-localized-health-impacts-of-fossil-fuels/>

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has the responsibility to act swiftly and effectively on the issue of climate change; and

WHEREAS, destabilized weather patterns, extreme weather events and other serious impacts are driven by greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels, and a major shift away from such carbon fuels is a cornerstone to any meaningful response;<sup>11</sup>, <sup>12</sup>and

WHEREAS, a steadily increasing fee or tax on fossil fuels at the point of their entry into the economy (the well, mine, or point of importation) would be a straightforward way to make effective use of free market mechanisms to promote the transition to greater energy conservation and renewable sources of energy <sup>13</sup>; and

WHEREAS, a rebate of all of the revenue generated by the fee to all United States Residents, in equal shares, would mitigate the impact of rising energy prices for all households and generate many new clean energy jobs, while potentially improving the overall economy<sup>14</sup>;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Plattsburgh calls on our representatives in the United States Congress to address climate change by adopting as one important measure, among others, the Economic Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (EICDA; H.R. 763) as the foundation for sound, effective, National Policy.

---

<sup>11</sup> Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Carbon tax needed to cut fossil fuel consumption: Will we ever stop using fossil fuels? Not without a carbon tax, suggests a study." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 24 February 2016. <[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/02/160224151006.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/02/160224151006.htm)>.

1. <sup>12</sup> Thomas Covert, Michael Greenstone, Christopher R. Knittel. **Will We Ever Stop Using Fossil Fuels?†**. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 2016; 30 (1): 117 DOI: [10.1257/jep.30.1.117](https://doi.org/10.1257/jep.30.1.117)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.alternet.org/2019/03/opportunity-costs-heres-how-to-make-carbon-taxing-become-a-positive-sum-game/#.Xlhh6PWdmas.facebook>

<sup>14</sup> <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/REMI-carbon-tax-report-62141.pdf>

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor McFarlin  
Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Gibbs, Ensel, McFarlin, Moore  
(All voted in the affirmative)

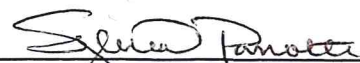
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

ABSENT: None

**CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY**

December 2, 2019

I, Sylvia Parrotte, City Clerk of the City of Plattsburgh, do hereby certify that the preceding resolution was adopted at the Regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Plattsburgh held on November 26, 2019 and is incorporated in the original minutes of said meeting, and that said resolution has not been altered, amended or revoked and is in full force and effect.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sylvia Parrotte, City Clerk