

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-76

A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAIYNE, FLORIDA, URGING OUR U.S. SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES TO PASS THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT (H.R. 763) TO LEVY AN ANNUALLY INCREASING REVENUE-NEUTRAL FEE ON THE CARBON IN FOSSIL FUELS AT THE POINT OF PRODUCTION OR IMPORTATION AND RETURN A DIVIDEND TO ALL AMERICANS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, climate scientists worldwide agree that the earth is warming rapidly to a degree that is perilous to human civilization, numerous species, and to the global ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the primary cause of the rapid warming is human activity, especially through the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂); and

WHEREAS, the United States Global Change Research Program anticipates that inaction on reducing global emissions of CO₂ will lead to increased heat, drought, insect outbreaks, flooding and wildfires coupled with declining water supplies, reduced agricultural yields, and harm to public health and welfare throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the likely consequences of unmitigated climate change on South Florida will pose serious threats to the region's economy, ecology, and livability through sea level rise, the loss of our freshwater supply, compromised sanitation systems, stronger storms, and rising insurance rates, among other things; and

WHEREAS, local sea level rise in South Florida, including the Village of Key Biscayne, has greatly exceeded global sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, Miami has seen an extra 5” of sea level rise¹; and

WHEREAS, every additional release of greenhouse gas increases the severity of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council of the Village of Key Biscayne has a record of acknowledging the reality of climate change, the projected effects on the community, and the Village's ability and responsibility to reduce its contribution to the causes of climate change; and

WHEREAS, coastal areas of the United States are experiencing indirect harm based on economic factors relating to rising flood insurance costs and loss of 30-year mortgage issuance in low-lying areas; and

WHEREAS, FEMA flood insurance rates have already begun to rise for the many properties in the Village of Key Biscayne; and

WHEREAS, an unseen side effect of the underwater battle being waged between freshwater and saltwater has been the rise of the local water table and contamination of the freshwater supply for south Florida²; and

WHEREAS, national and international policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must be implemented rapidly to avoid catastrophic damage to the planet’s ecosystems upon which we and all life depend; and

¹ Dessu SB, Price RM, Troxler TG, Kominoski JS (2018) Effects of sea-level rise and freshwater management on long-term water levels and water quality in the Florida Coastal Everglades. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 21, 164-176. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2018.01.025>

² In 2015, GEI Consultants, Inc. identified septic systems as the infrastructure in the City of South Miami at most immediate risk from the rising water table: "The Snapper Creek Study Area had 11 properties (or 73% of the 15 records available) that were estimated to have the bottom of drainfield reached by rising groundwater within the next 25 years." When groundwater reaches the level of a house’s septic drainfield, wastewater from the house (including the toilets) will backflow into the bathtub instead of the septic tank and will further contaminate south Florida's freshwater supply with saltwater.

WHEREAS, local action is necessary yet insufficient to avoid catastrophic climate change³; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council hereby recognizes that the pollution caused by burning fossil fuels is a primary cause of climate change, and that an effective and efficient measure to address this problem is the enactment of a revenue-neutral fee on carbon production at its source, with the fees being returned to Americans as a dividend; and

WHEREAS, a policy known as the “carbon fee and dividend” is a superior, revenue-neutral, economically efficient, market-based mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the economy while providing a direct economic benefit to the people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, a Carbon Fee and Dividend has been proposed in bipartisan bills drafted by members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, as a revenue-neutral policy; and

WHEREAS, a Carbon Fee and Dividend rule would encourage consumers and the market to transition to clean energy sources and away from carbon-based energy and fuels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE VILLAGE OF KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. That each of the above-stated recitals are hereby adopted, confirmed, and incorporated herein.

Section 2. Urging Passage of Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763). The Village Council strongly urges the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763), legislation that levies an

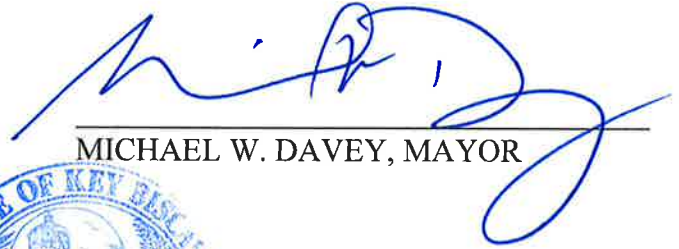
³ While there are still those who deny that human activity contributes to climate change, they fail to ask themselves: What will happen if they are wrong and it is too late to reverse climate change?

annually increasing revenue-neutral fee on the carbon in fossil fuels at the point of production or importation, that would be sufficient to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions to climate-safe levels by 2050, with the fees returned to Americans as a dividend.


Section 3. Transmittal. The Village Clerk is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to U.S. Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, and all members of the U.S. House of Representatives and members of the U.S. Senate representing Florida districts.

Section 4. Effective Date. That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED this 10th day of December, 2019.


MICHAEL W. DAVEY, MAYOR

ATTEST:


JENNIFER MEDINA, CMC
VILLAGE CLERK



APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY


WEISS SEROTA HELFMAN COLE & BIERSMAN, P.L.
VILLAGE ATTORNEY