[Supporting United States House Resolution No. 763 (Deutch) - The Energy and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019]

Resolution supporting United States House Resolution No. 763, authored by United States Representative Theodore E. Deutch, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, to encourage 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.

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 in a monumental 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, 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 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 the fuel will emit when burned and allocate the collected proceeds to all U.S. Households in equal shares in the form of a monthly dividend; and

WHEREAS, For efficient administration, the fossil fuels fee can be applied once, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States; and

WHEREAS, As stated in the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, House Resolution No. 763 (H.R. 763), a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee starting at a relatively low rate of $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, H.R. 763, specifies that, in order to protect low 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 (½ 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

which will reduce harmful pollution and leave a healthier, more stable, and more prosperous
nation for future generations; 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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco 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 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, no later than 30
days after passage of this Resolution, shall transmit copies of this resolution to the President
and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to
the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the U.S. Senators for the State of California, and to
nearby city and county governments, including the Santa Rosa City Council, Sebastopol City
Council, Rohnert Park City Council, Cotati City Council, Healdsburg City Council, San Jose
City Council, City Council of Daly City, and San Rafael City Council, urging that they pass
similar resolutions.
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December 10, 2019 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Brown, Fewer, Haney, Mandelman, Mar, Peskin, Ronen, Safai, Stefani, Walton and Yee

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on 12/10/2019 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution, not being signed by the Mayor within the time limit as set forth in Section 3.103 of the Charter, or time waived pursuant to Board Rule 2.14.2, became effective without her approval in accordance with the provision of said Section 3.103 of the Charter or Board Rule 2.14.2.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

City Hall
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689