

1 RESOLUTION NO. 2020-280

2 A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY  
3 COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA,  
4 URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT  
5 HOUSE RESOLUTION 763, THE ENERGY INNOVATION  
6 AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019; PROVIDING FOR  
7 DISTRIBUTION OF THE RESOLUTION; AND PROVIDING  
8 FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

6 (Sponsored by Mayor Dale V.C. Holness, Commissioner Beam Furr,  
7 Senator Nan H. Rich and Commissioner Lamar P. Fisher)

8 WHEREAS, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
9 ("IPCC"), the United Nations scientific body dedicated to the study of global climate  
10 change, the Earth has warmed approximately 1.0 degree Celsius ("°C") above  
11 preindustrial levels;

12 WHEREAS, at this level of warming, the Earth is already experiencing the effects  
13 of climate change, including greater frequency of extreme heat waves, extreme  
14 precipitation events, increased coastal flooding, more intense tropical storms, greater  
15 frequency and severity of coral bleaching events, higher average land and ocean  
16 temperatures, and increased ocean acidity;

17 WHEREAS, Broward County is particularly vulnerable to the effects of global  
18 climate change, especially sea level rise and associated impacts, given its low elevation,  
19 porous geology, and exposure to tropical storms;

20 WHEREAS, the IPCC released a Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C  
21 ("IPCC Report") in October 2018, outlining the importance of limiting the total global  
22 temperature increase to 1.5°C in order to reduce the severity of climate impacts, including  
23 extreme hot days, higher risk of drought in certain regions, higher amounts of heavy  
24 precipitation from tropical cyclones, sea level rise, extinction threats to many plant and

1 animal species, ecosystem change, loss of coral reefs, ocean heating, higher risk of lower  
2 economic growth, and other significant climatic, environmental, social, and economic  
3 disruptions;

4 WHEREAS, according to the IPCC Report, limiting warming to no more than 1.5°C  
5 will at least preserve a semblance of the ecosystems we have, while warming above 2°C  
6 is likely to have devastating consequences for the natural world and human societies;

7 WHEREAS, in order to limit warming to 1.5°C or to only briefly overshoot this goal,  
8 the climate model scenarios discussed in the IPCC Report require artificially-created net  
9 carbon dioxide ("CO<sub>2</sub>") emissions to decline by about  
10 forty-five percent (45%) from 2010 levels by 2030, and to reach net zero around 2050;

11 WHEREAS, the United States ("U.S.") is a major carbon pollution emitter, currently  
12 responsible for over 10 percent (10%) of global carbon emissions, despite having only  
13 four percent (4%) of the world's population, and it is cumulatively responsible for  
14 approximately twenty-five percent (25%) of all carbon emissions since 1800;

15 WHEREAS, the United States has a responsibility to reduce its carbon emissions  
16 in line with the reductions suggested in the IPCC Report;

17 WHEREAS, these dramatic reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions need to occur on an  
18 economywide scale;

19 WHEREAS, the Broward County Climate Change Action Plan (2015) aims for a  
20 countywide reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of eighty percent (80%) below 2005  
21 levels by the year 2050, similar to the required emissions reductions outlined in the IPCC  
22 Report;

23 WHEREAS, scenario forecasting conducted as a part of Broward County's  
24 2011-2014 Communitywide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory suggested that

1 Broward County might be able to achieve half of the eighty percent (80%) countywide  
2 target through local policies and programs, with state and national policies needed to  
3 achieve the other half;

4 WHEREAS, while Broward County can pursue local action, the U.S. Congress has  
5 the responsibility and ability to enact legislation to reduce carbon emissions on a national,  
6 economywide scale;

7 WHEREAS, the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are  
8 not included in prices paid for fossil fuels but, rather, these externalized costs are borne  
9 directly and indirectly by all Americans and inhabitants of the planet;

10 WHEREAS, some economists encourage placing a price on negative externalities  
11 such as carbon pollution, because such pricing signals are technology-neutral and cost-  
12 efficient, thus leading to maximizing reductions of the unwanted externalities at the lowest  
13 economic cost;

14 WHEREAS, federal legislators from both parties have recognized the need for  
15 dramatic, national, economywide action to reduce carbon emissions and respond to  
16 climate impacts by introducing resolutions such as the "Green New Deal" resolution  
17 introduced by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-NY, and Senator Ed Markey, D-MA, and  
18 the "Green Real Deal" resolution proposed by Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-FL;

19 WHEREAS, members of the U.S. House of Representatives have introduced  
20 House Resolution 763 ("H.R. 763"), the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of  
21 2019, to apply a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the amount of carbon dioxide  
22 each fuel emits when burned and to allocate the proceeds to all households in the United  
23 States in equal shares in the form of a monthly dividend;

24

1           WHEREAS, H.R. 763 would establish a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee of  
2 fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per ton of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions, to be increased  
3 by at least ten dollars (\$10.00) per ton of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions each year;

4           WHEREAS, H.R. 763 seeks to protect low and middle income persons from the  
5 economic impact of rising prices due to the carbon fee by providing equal monthly  
6 per-person dividend payments to all American households (with half-payments per child  
7 under 19 years old) from the fees collected, less minor administration costs, with the total  
8 value of all monthly dividend payments representing one hundred percent (100%) of the  
9 net carbon fees collected per month;

10           WHEREAS, after twelve (12) years, H.R. 763 is projected to decrease U.S. carbon  
11 dioxide emissions by forty percent (40%) and increase national employment by 2.1 million  
12 jobs;

13           WHEREAS, border adjustments, carbon content-based tariffs on products  
14 imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing, and refunds to American  
15 exporters of carbon fees paid in the U.S. can maintain the competitiveness of U.S.  
16 businesses in global markets;

17           WHEREAS, a national carbon fee can be implemented quickly and efficiently  
18 because the federal government already possesses mechanisms needed to implement  
19 and enforce the fee, such as the existing procedures for collecting fees from fossil fuel  
20 producers and importers, and to distribute revenues, such as via the Internal Revenue  
21 Service; and

22           WHEREAS, a national revenue-neutral carbon fee would make the United States  
23 a leader in reducing carbon emissions, position the nation to rapidly develop a clean  
24

1 energy economy, and set an example for other countries to enact similar carbon fees,  
2 NOW, THEREFORE,

3 BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
4 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

5 Section 1. Broward County urges the United States Congress to enact House  
6 Resolution 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, or similar  
7 legislation.

8 Section 2. Copies of this Resolution shall be distributed to all members of the  
9 United States House of Representatives and United States Senate from the state of  
10 Florida.

11 Section 3. Effective Date.

12 This Resolution is effective upon adoption.

13  
14 ADOPTED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020. (Item 20)

15 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:  
16 Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

17 By /s/ Michael C. Owens 04/27/2020  
18 Michael C. Owens (date)  
Senior Assistant County Attorney

19  
20 By /s/ Maite Azcoitia 04/27/2020  
21 Maite Azcoitia (date)  
Deputy County Attorney

22 MCO/gmb  
23 Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act Resolution.docx  
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