



# VILLAGE OF RHINEBECK

Resolution No. 20191008  
Village of Rhinebeck, New York

## **Resolution Urging the United States Congress to Enact Laws Enabling Application of Policy, Scientific, and Economic Means Necessary to Reverse Human-Produced Climate Change**

WHEREAS, The Village of Rhinebeck supports the fundamental right of all residents to a stable and healthy ecosystem of clean air, water, and soil, which includes the right to be free from all activities that release elements into the environment that degrade, contaminate, and otherwise compromise the earth's ecosystem, and

WHEREAS, The United States government released its Fourth Annual Climate Assessment in November 2018, not only concurring with conclusions of the global scientific community about climate change, but also reporting that the impacts of climate change are already being felt in communities across the United States, 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, There is furthermore consensus among the global scientific community that human-produced greenhouse gases have caused much of the observed increase in the earth's temperatures over the past several decades, and

WHEREAS, The global scientific community has concluded that inaction to reduce human output of greenhouse gases will lead to continued increases in the earth's temperatures such that the potential for irreversible, long-term changes in environmental conditions will occur such that all forms of life on Earth, including human life, will be negatively impacted and potentially imperiled by virtue of damage to essential elements of the earth's ecosystem, and

WHEREAS, The scientific community has identified existing technologies, methods, and opportunities for immediate action that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions that, if initiated rapidly, could within as short a period as 12 years reduce the impact of human activities on global temperature increases to a level that would lessen the risk of catastrophic impacts on human life and the earth's ecosystem, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Rhinebeck, in recognition of scientific evidence and proven technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, is committed to implementing and supporting all initiatives aimed at making our local environment and ecosystem sustainable and livable, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Rhinebeck recognizes the need for consideration of all possible policies, available sciences, and economic means in order to effectively address the issue of human-produced climate change, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Rhinebeck recognizes the urgency to address human-produced climate change timely and decisively,

WHEREAS, the Village of Rhinebeck recognizes that Congress is now considering enacting the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763, and

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763, proposes a course of action that may result in positive effects in the efforts to reduce human-produced climate change, but has programmatic elements in common with efforts in the United States and elsewhere that have yet to produce desired results both in effect and in timeliness,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Village of Rhinebeck, New York urges the United States Congress to begin immediate action to investigate, identify, and enact legislation that would implement comprehensive policy, science, infrastructure, and economic actions to set a course to mitigate in a timeline deemed necessary by the United States' Fourth Annual Climate Assessment and supported by consensus of the global scientific community to mitigate the effects of human-produced climate change, and to incorporate as deemed appropriate, complementary elements of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763, into revised legislation that defines a comprehensive long-range plan, and

RESOLVED, that the Village of Rhinebeck, New York, urges the United States Congress to enact without delay the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor or Village Clerk 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 each U.S. Senator and a Representative from the State of New York in the Congress of the United States.

PASSED AND ADOPTED as a resolution of the Village of Rhinebeck, State of New York at its regularly scheduled meeting held on October 8, 2019.



Gary Bassett, Mayor  
Village of Rhinebeck