

RECORD OF RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. **R-13-20**

Passed

November 2 2020

Introduced by All Members of Council

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING ATHENS CITY COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR H.R. 763, THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019; WHICH IF ENACTED, WOULD IMPOSE A CARBON FEE ON THE PRODUCERS OR IMPORTERS OF FUELS THAT EMIT GREENHOUSE GASES INTO THE ATMOSPHERE; AND URGING REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT IT INTO LAW.

WHEREAS, climate scientists worldwide are in near-unanimous agreement that our planet is warming rapidly to a degree that is perilous to human civilization, to numerous species, and to the global ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of residents oppose climate threatening practices within the City of Athens as demonstrated when 79% of voters supported banning the climate destabilizing practice of hydraulic fracturing and related activities in November, 2014; and

WHEREAS, human activity is a significant contributor to global warming, especially through the accelerating combustion of fossil fuels that create carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases as a byproduct; and

WHEREAS, the City of Athens has experienced steadily increasing numbers of heavy rainfall events over the past decade, causing localized flash flooding, landslides, and damage to public and private property, and increasingly intense heat waves that threaten our most vulnerable neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Athens has a record of acknowledging the reality of climate change as well as the City's responsibility to reduce its contribution to the causes of global warming, as evidenced by: Ordinance 32-84, executing an agreement with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for curbside recycling; Resolution 03-07, to reduce global warming emissions; Ordinance 20-09, establishing a Green Fleets Policy; Resolution 10-09, to facilitate installation of a photovoltaic solar energy system at the Athens Community Center; Ordinance 30-11, adopting green building design standards for municipal property; Ordinance 60-12, established the City's Environment and Sustainability Commission; Ordinance 65-16, authorizing solar-powered recycling/refuse compacting containers in the uptown area; Resolution 05-17, expressing the City's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emission through implementation of a Climate Action Plan; 2017 bronze designation from SolSmart; Ordinance 14-18, authorizing an opt-out Community Solar Program with an electric carbon fee; Resolution 02-20, endorsing the declaration of a climate emergency and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate; Ordinance 60-20, authorizing curbside composting; Ordinance 80-20, and Resolution 104-20, to include solar energy systems in the Athens City Zoning Code; and

WHEREAS, a prompt and major shift away from fossil fuels is a necessary cornerstone to any meaningful response to climate change; and

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WHEREAS, the recently published Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) SR 1.5 Report states that "Policies reflecting a high price on emissions are necessary" as a key component of any effort to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees centigrade; and

WHEREAS, this IPCC report also suggests that any carbon pricing policy should be designed to "balance between incentivizing low-carbon behavior and mitigating the adverse distributional consequences of higher energy prices"; and

WHEREAS, the introduction of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763) in the US House of Representatives on January 24, 2019 demonstrates that there is increasing bipartisan support for Climate Solutions, and would establish a steadily increasing fee on fossil fuels at the point of their entry into the economy, which fee on fossil fuels would be straightforward and make effective use of free-market mechanisms to promote the transition to greater energy conservation and renewable sources of energy; and

WHEREAS, this revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend is an effective method to reduce carbon emissions for the following reasons:

1. The fee would motivate everyone to conserve and adopt renewable energy without the need for extensive governmental regulatory controls or infrastructure, encouraging consumers and the market to replace consumption of carbon-based energy with innovative, sustainable energy sources, whether by being efficient or choosing other, less carbon intensive energy sources;
2. The fee would employ a market approach to encourage innovative processes, not only in energy production but also in every field in which energy is consumed (e.g., electric cars, mass transportation, architectural planning and construction, water heating, lighting, and air-conditioning in residential and commercial buildings);
3. Levying the fee at the point of production would be more efficient, less expensive, and provide more accurate signals than doing so at the point of consumption;
4. The fee would incentivize the development and use of alternative energies and attendant technologies, eliminating the need for government subsidies that attempt to forecast alternative energy winners and losers;
5. Because the fee is levied on the same basis on all businesses, it is fairer to every business and easier to administer than alternatives, such as a cap and trade system;
6. A border adjustment would assess a fee on goods traded with countries without a comparable carbon price, thereby maintaining the competitiveness of U.S. businesses and discouraging relocation to such countries and also encouraging other countries to price carbon; and

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WHEREAS, such a policy would protect lower and middle-income households, as the dividend would allow nearly two-thirds of American households to benefit financially, break-even, or have only minimal increased costs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, OHIO:

SECTION I: The Council of the City of Athens, Ohio hereby expresses its support for the proposed Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763), which if enacted, would endorse a carbon fee and dividend, and would return all revenues as they increase, minus fixed administration costs, to each American as a monthly dividend to offset expected higher prices for goods and services.

SECTION II: The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to deliver a copy of this Resolution to President Donald Trump, Vice-President Michael Pence, Governor Michael DeWine, U.S. Senators Rob Portman and Sherrod Brown, U.S. Representative Bill Johnson, Ohio State Senator Frank Hoagland, and State Representative Jay Edwards.

SECTION III: This Resolution shall take effect at the earliest date permitted by law.




President of Council

ATTEST:



Clerk of Council

APPROVED:



Mayor

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BARRETT BROTHERS - DAYTON, OHIO

Form 6301

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Passed _____