RESOLUTION R-2021-101

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO

TO ENDORSE THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT

WHEREAS, the City of Longmont adopted the Climate Action Recommendations Report in 2020 that builds on already established goals within the Sustainability Plan, including the transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030 in a just and equitable way, reducing Longmont’s greenhouse gas emissions, expanding efficiency programs to reduce utility bills and conserve water and energy, and beneficial electrification of buildings and vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2021 (EICDA), H.R. 2307, is consistent with and will accelerate the implementation of the City of Longmont’s Sustainability and Climate Action Plans; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued the Sixth Assessment Report in August of 2021, finding that the planet is likely to warm past 1.5°C sometime in the early 2030’s; and

WHEREAS, our region will likely face hotter and drier conditions, becoming more severe with greater warming, impacting public health, infrastructure and the economy; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations climate science body said in a monumental climate report that we have until 2030 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 National 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 must
be brought to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not
presently 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 EICDA to
assess a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the amount of C02 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, as stated in the EICDA, 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 EICDA, 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; and

WHEREAS, as stated in the EICDA, the yearly increase in carbon fees including other
greenhouse gases, should 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, as stated in the EICDA, in order to protect low- and middle-income residents
from the economic impact of rising prices due to the carbon fee, equal monthly per-person dividend
payments should be made to all American households (½ payment per child under 19 years old)
each month from the fossil fuel fees collected, with the total value of all monthly dividend
payments representing 100% of the net carbon fees collected per month; and

WHEREAS, the EICDA encourages market-driven innovation of clean energy
technologies and market efficiencies that will reduce harmful pollution and leave a healthier, more
stable, and more prosperous nation for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the EICDA is expected to lead to a decrease in America’s CO2 emissions of
30% in 5 years, and is the single most powerful tool we have to get us to net zero by 2050; and

WHEREAS, border adjustments—tariffs based on the carbon content of 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, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO,

RESOLVES:

Section 1

That the City of Longmont, Colorado urges the United States Congress to enact without delay a carbon fee and dividend policy such as the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, (H.R. 2307).

Section 2

No later than 30 days after passage of this Resolution the City Manager or City Clerk shall transmit copies of this Resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, each U.S. Senator and Representative from the State of Colorado in the Congress of the United States, and to nearby city and county governments urging that they pass similar resolutions.

Section 3

The Council repeals all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution, but only to the extent of such inconsistency.

Passed and adopted this 28th day of September, 2021.

[Signature]

MAYOR
ATTEST:  

Dawn Quintana (Sep 30, 2021 10:58 MDT)

CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Tim Hole  
Tim Hole (Sep 27, 2021 14:44 MDT)

ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

Michelle Blankas  
Michelle Blankas (Sep 27, 2021 11:39 MDT)

PROOFREAD

DATE

Sep 27, 2021

DATE

Sep 27, 2021

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

Dale Rademacher  
Dale Rademacher (Sep 27, 2021 18:01 MDT)

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT

DATE

CA File: 21-001353

Resolution Endorsing the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act_FINAL_09/14/2021