

Resolution No. 1308
Borough of State College, Pennsylvania

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE
ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT**

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reported on the impacts of global warming exceeding 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in August 2021, warning that warming is likely to reach 1.5°C by 2030 if emissions continue to increase at the current rate; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Climate Science Body reports that we must rapidly make massive and unprecedented changes to global energy infrastructure to limit global warming to moderate levels; and

WHEREAS, the United States government released its Sixth Annual Climate Assessment in 2021 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 net-zero by 2050; and

WHEREAS, The Borough of State College has a long track record of acknowledging the realities of global climate disruption as well as the Borough's duty to mitigate the impacts of climate change as evidenced by Resolution 944 adopted in August 2007 and Resolution 1184, adopted in March 2017; and

WHEREAS, presently the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but rather are borne directly and indirectly by all Americans and global citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2018 report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels stated that carbon prices remain a necessary condition of effective climate policies; and

WHEREAS, to begin to correct this market failure, Congress can enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (EICDA) to assess a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit when burned and allocate the proceeds to all U.S. households in equal per capita 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 EICDA a national revenue-neutral carbon fee starting at \$15 per ton of CO₂ equivalent emissions 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 provision that the annual increase will be \$15 per ton of CO₂ equivalent if statutory goals are not met; and

WHEREAS, the EICDA specifies that, 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 (one-half 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

WHEREAS, the EICDA encourages 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; and

WHEREAS, the EICDA will lead to a decrease in America's CO₂ emissions of 37 percent in five years relative to a 2005 baseline, based on projections from Resources for the Future, and will preserve national employment; and

WHEREAS, border adjustments - carbon content-based levies on emissions-intensive 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 various other fees from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

WHEREAS, a national revenue-neutral carbon fee in the United States would provide an incentive to other countries to enact similar carbon fees, reducing global CO₂ emissions without the need for complex international agreements, and

WHEREAS, the EICDA does precisely what The Borough's March 2017 Resolution 1184 advocated: create a workable and effective carbon fee and dividend plan for the nation

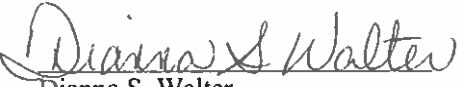
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED, that the Borough of State College, Pennsylvania urges the United States Congress to enact without delay the **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act**, and be it further

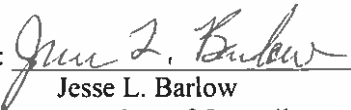
RESOLVED, that the Borough Secretary is hereby directed to send a copy of this Resolution to the Borough's representatives in Congress.

RESOLVED this 7th day of March, 2022

ATTEST:


Dianna S. Walter
Assistant Borough Secretary

BOROUGH OF STATE COLLEGE

By: 
Jesse L. Barlow
President of Council