

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Certified copy of portion of proceedings; Meeting of July 2, 2019

RESOLUTION NO. 19-62

RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019 (HR 763)

WHEREAS, HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 implementing a carbon fee and dividend was introduced in 2019 with bipartisan support in the House; and

WHEREAS, Representatives DeSaulnier, Speier, Carbajal, Peters, Eshoo, and Chu of California are cosponsors of HR763; and

WHEREAS, The California Legislature adopted AJR43 in 2016 with Senator McGuire's and Assemblyman Wood's support, urging Congress to pass carbon fee and dividend; and

WHEREAS, Representative Huffman introduced a stronger bill HR 309 in 2015; and

WHEREAS, of the 19 hottest years on record, 18 of them have occurred since 2001; and

WHEREAS, climate scientists overwhelmingly agree that an increase in greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide (CO₂) in particular, is causing the increase in global temperature; and

WHEREAS, humans burning carbon-based fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and natural gas, is the primary cause of the substantial increase of CO₂ in the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions including CO₂ is leading to problems including rising sea levels and ocean acidification; smaller salmon runs; more frequent, extreme, and damaging events like heat waves, storms, heavy rainfall, flooding and droughts; more frequent and intense wildfires; and an increase in heat related deaths; and

WHEREAS, Californians have already suffered losses from fires in 2017 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, we are approaching a dangerous threshold whereby, if it is crossed, humans will no longer be able to influence the course of future global warming; and

WHEREAS, the relentless increase in atmospheric CO₂ concentration shows that more powerful policies than those already in place are needed to supplement local and regional efforts to reduce emissions; and

WHEREAS, the environmental, health, and social costs of CO₂ emissions are not presently included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but are borne directly and indirectly by all Americans; and

WHEREAS, to correct this market failure, the United States Congress could enact a carbon fee and dividend (otherwise known as a revenue neutral carbon tax) policy on fossil fuels, based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit when burned; and

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WHEREAS, a national, revenue-neutral carbon tax starting at a relatively low rate and increasing steadily over future years is a market-based solution that would minimally disrupt the economy while sending a clear and predictable price signal to businesses to develop and use noncarbon-based energy resources; and

WHEREAS, job creation from development of clean energy and energy efficiency businesses will exceed job creation from further use of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, a national carbon fee and dividend could be implemented quickly and efficiently, and 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 dividend, and already collects taxes from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

WHEREAS, a national carbon fee and dividend could make the United States a 21st Century leader in mitigating climate change and in the clean energy technologies, and would encourage other countries to enact similar carbon fees, thereby reducing global CO2 emissions without the need for complex international agreements; and

WHEREAS, the goals of a national carbon fee and dividend policy to reduce CO2 emissions and transition to a green economy are consistent with state and local programs designed to mitigate climate change, such as California AB32; and

WHEREAS, the market incentive provided by a steadily rising national carbon fee and dividend will result in significant and increasing near term reduction in overall CO2 emissions throughout the United States, and would thereby help the state and the county to meet or exceed their own goals; and

WHEREAS, the continued widespread use of fossil fuels and global climate change pose a present and growing risk to the health and welfare of Humboldt County residents and to its economy, and a U. S. national carbon fee and dividend policy will reduce those risks and promote health and prosperity in Humboldt County, and the world; and

WHEREAS, 122 jurisdictions nationwide have endorsed carbon fee and dividend; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Burlingame, Cotati, Davis, Del Mar, El Cerrito, Emeryville, Los Altos, Marina, Modesto, Monterey, Morro Bay, Oroville, Pacific Grove, Richmond, San Francisco, San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, Santa Monica, Santa Rosa, and West Hollywood have passed resolutions calling for carbon fee and dividend; and

WHEREAS, the counties of Monterey, Santa Cruz, Marin, Sonoma and San Mateo have passed resolutions supporting carbon fee and dividend;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS hereby urges the United States Congress to enact, without delay, a tax on carbon-based fossil fuels with stipulations that:

1. All fee revenues should be returned to households to protect low and middle-income Americans from the impact of rising prices due to the fee; and
2. The international competitiveness of United States businesses shall be protected by using carbon-content-based border tariffs and tax refunds.

Dated: July 2, 2019



Rex Bohn, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

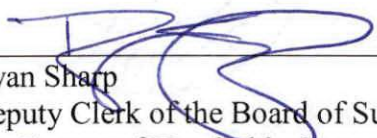
Adopted on motion by Supervisor Wilson, seconded by Supervisor Bass, and the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors Bohn, Fennell, Wilson, Madrone, Bass
NAYS: Supervisors --
ABSENT: Supervisors --
ABSTAIN: Supervisors --

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
County of Humboldt)

I, KATHY HAYES, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be an original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Board of Supervisors.



Ryan Sharp
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of
the County of Humboldt, State of California