

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of July 2, 2019

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**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 (CO<sub>2</sub>) 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 CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions including CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> the fuel will emit when burned; and

**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

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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;

**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

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2. The international competitiveness of United States businesses shall be protected by using carbon-content-based border tariffs and tax refunds.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rex Bohn, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Adopted on motion by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_  
and the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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 a full, true and correct copy of the original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California as the same now appears of record in my office.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**KATHY HAYES**

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the  
County of Humboldt, State of California