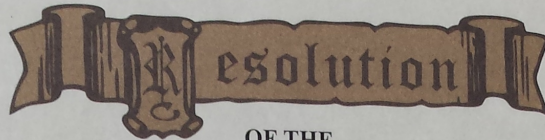


Dated: November 14, 2017



OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE
COUNTY OF SONOMA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
**URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT A
REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND**

Whereas, the average surface temperature on Earth has been increasing steadily, with the sixteen warmest years ever recorded since 1998, and the hottest of all was 2016. In May 2016, the global atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) reached 410 parts per million—the highest level in the last 800,000 years. It is predicted that by 2100, the average global temperature will be 2°F to 11.5°F higher than now, depending on the level of future greenhouse gases trapped in the atmosphere; and

Whereas, climate scientists overwhelmingly agree that an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere --CO₂ is from burning carbon-based fossil fuels—coal, oil, and natural gas. CO₂ remains in the atmosphere for approximately one hundred years. We are approaching a dangerous greenhouse gas threshold whereby, if crossed, humans will no longer be able to influence the course of future global warming, as tropical forests, peat bogs, permafrost, and the oceans, which absorb and sequester carbon in a balanced state, will begin releasing additional carbon into the atmosphere; and

Whereas, climate change caused by global warming-related greenhouse gas emissions including CO₂, is already leading to large-scale problems including rising oceans as heat waves, storms, heavy rainfall and flooding, and droughts; more frequent and intense wildfires; disrupted ecosystems affecting biodiversity and food production; an increase in heat-related deaths requiring broader, more powerful policies to supplement local and regional efforts to reduce emissions. Whereas, there are embedded human health costs due to pollutants released by burning fossil fuels that cause lung disease, respiratory illnesses, and cancer not currently included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but rather these externalized costs are borne both directly and indirectly by all global citizens; and

Whereas, a national carbon tax (NCT) on fossil fuels, based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit when burned, will begin to correct this market failure and make the United States a leader in mitigating climate change and the clean energy technologies of the 21st Century, and would incentivize other countries to enact similar carbon taxes, reducing global CO₂ emissions without need for complex international agreements; and

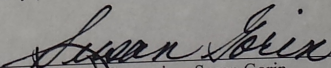
Whereas, a NCT, starting at a low rate and increasing steadily over future years, is a market-based solution that would minimally disrupt the economy while sending a clear price signal to businesses to develop and use non-carbon-based energy resources, while incentivizing manufacturers, businesses, and consumers throughout the economy to produce and use less fossil fuel. NCT would spur investment in and deployment of clean energy resources and energy efficient processes, and would thereby reduce CO₂ emissions into the atmosphere and promote worker retraining for those employed in the fossil fuel industries; and

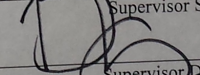
Whereas, if carbon tax revenue is returned to households in equal shares, approximately two thirds of Americans will break even or come out ahead, as their dividends match or exceed direct and indirect price increases due to the tax, protecting lower and middle income households. Fossil fuels should be taxed once, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States. Border adjustments levied on carbon-based products imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing and refunds to our exporters will help level the playing field and maintain the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in global markets; and

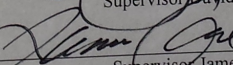
Whereas, a NCT can be implemented quickly and responding to the urgency of the climate crisis, because the federal government already has in place mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service, needed to implement and enforce the tax. Transition to a green economy is consistent with state and local programs designed to mitigate climate change, such as California's AB32 and the County of Sonoma's Climate Action Plan and adaptation initiatives.

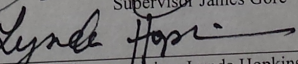
Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors urges the United States Congress to enact, without delay, a revenue-neutral fee on carbon-based fossil fuels while supporting a fee on carbon and dividend distribution, with the continued regulatory authority of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), continued implementation of the Clean Power Act, and the People's ongoing access to federal and state tort liability.

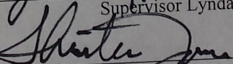



Supervisor Susan Gorin


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Supervisor James Gore


Supervisor Lynda Hopkins


Supervisor Shirlee Zane, Chairwoman