

## RESOLUTION 3063

### RELATING TO SUPPORTING NATIONAL LEGISLATION TO ENACT A CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND PROGRAM TO REDUCE POLLUTING AND CLIMATE-CHANGING CARBON EMISSIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Decorah Mayor and Council is charged with maintaining and enhancing the health, safety and quality of life of all City residents; and

**WHEREAS**, carbon emissions pollute the air we breathe and leading scientists around the world are in near-unanimous agreement that they are changing the climate of the Earth to a degree that is perilous to human habitation; and

**WHEREAS**, carbon is a primary element in emissions impacting public health and altering our climate, and non-renewable fossil fuels are the leading source of carbon missions, so reducing their use is necessary to slow and eventually halt the pollution of our air and the deadly changing of our climate; and

**WHEREAS**, a carbon fee applied at the points of carbon emissions production and fossil fuels importation will reduce the profitability and desirability of these practices; and

**WHEREAS**, a ["carbon fee and dividend"](#) approach is revenue-neutral, can be implemented without extensive governmental regulatory controls, and applies equally to every sector of the economy regardless of size; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Decorah Mayor and City Council are resolved to support the carbon-emissions reduction of the Paris Climate Agreement, and a carbon fee and dividend program would enhance the city's actions under its 2020 Sustainability Plan to reduce carbon emissions, increase efficiency and use of renewable energy, and improve the health of city residents; and

**WHEREAS**, such an approach at the national level could start at a relatively low rate and be increased steadily over time to minimize any disruption to the economy while sending a clear and predicable price signal to businesses for them to develop and use alternative energy sources; and

**WHEREAS**, the [Citizens Climate Education Corporation](#) commissioned Regional Economic Models Inc. to conduct a nationwide macroeconomic projection of the [impact of a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend program](#); and

**WHEREAS**, this study predicted that, after ten years, such a program would lead to a 33-percent decrease in carbon-dioxide emissions, an increase in national employment of 2.1 million jobs, and an average monthly dividend to a family of four of \$288; and

**WHEREAS**, a national carbon fee and dividend program would make the United States a leader in mitigating air pollution and climate change, and in promoting clean energy technologies -- encouraging other countries to adopt a similar approach:

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DECORAH AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** That the City of Decorah Mayor and City Council hereby urges the U.S. Congress to enact, without delay, a carbon fee and dividend program.

**SECTION 2.** That Congress direct all revenue derived from the fee in this program be returned to households equitably to protect low- and middle-income residents from the impact of rising prices due to the fee.

**SECTION 3.** That the City Clerk transmit copies of this Resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Senate Majority Leader, and to each of the members of the Iowa Congressional Delegation.

**SECTION 4. WHEREAS**, it is necessary for the preservation of the peace, health and safety of the City of Decorah that this Resolution become immediately effective, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its passage and adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

City of Decorah, Iowa



Lorraine Borowski, Mayor

ATTEST:



Wanda Hemesath, City Clerk-Treasurer

Moved by: Johnson

Seconded by: Neal

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Johnson, Neal, Carlson, Bergan, Hadley

Nays: Schissel, Luse