

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION
THAT LEVIES AN ANNUALLY INCREASING REVENUE-NEUTRAL FEE ON CARBON IN
FOSSIL FUELS AT THE POINT OF PRODUCTION AND IMPORTATION.

RESOLUTION NO. 034 -2015

WHEREAS, Climate scientists worldwide are in near-unanimous agreement that Earth's atmosphere is warming to a degree perilous to global ecosystems, numerous species and the future of human civilization.

WHEREAS, the 2014 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has found that atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases that cause global warming have increased to levels unprecedented in the last 800,000 years with carbon dioxide concentrations increasing by 40% since pre-industrial time; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found that more than half of the observed increases in global average surface temperatures from 1951 to 2010 were caused by manmade increase in greenhouse gas concentrations; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 the Aspen Global Climate Change Institute published a study showing that global climate change will affect Pitkin County by reducing snowpack and changing water cycles which threatens the County's tourism economy and public safety through increased risk of wildfire and landslides; and

WHEREAS, current and former Pitkin County Board of Commissioners have a record of recognizing and preparing for climate change through strategies to reduce greenhouse gases and plan for community resiliency; and

WHEREAS, the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) has proposed a revenue neutral carbon fee and dividend levied at the point of production as a method to reduce carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, the CCL carbon fee and dividend proposal would be efficient in motivating energy consumers to conserve and adopt renewable energy without the need for extensive government regulatory controls or subsidies that attempt to forecast alternative energy winners and losers.

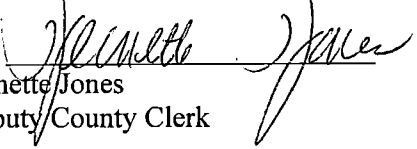
WHEREAS, the CCL carbon fee and dividend proposal would be effective by providing market incentives for energy providers to adopt innovative practices for carbon neutral energy production and consumer incentives to adopt energy conservation measures including, but not limited to, electric cars, mass transportation, energy efficient building design, etc.; and

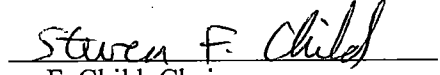
WHEREAS, the CCL fee and dividend is fair because it is levied on the same basis for all energy producers, and the dividend is paid as a flat amount to all energy consumers; and

WHEREAS, further delays in reducing emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere only increases the risk and impact of global climate change to Pitkin County, the State of Colorado and the world.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Pitkin County Board of Commissioners that Pitkin County strongly requests that the U.S. Congress act with urgency to pass legislation that levies an annually increasing revenue neutral fee and dividend on fossil fuels as proposed by CCL. The fee and dividend should be sufficient to: 1) Provide an economic incentive for individuals and corporations to produce and use less fossil fuels; and 2) make the transition from fossil fuels financially feasible to citizens by returning the fees collected in an equitable fashion to consumers.

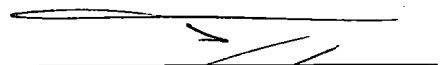
INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED ON THE 9th DAY OF May 2015.
ATTEST: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: 
Jeanette Jones
Deputy County Clerk

By: 
Steven F. Child, Chair

Date: 6/26/2015

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


John Ely, County Attorney

MANAGER APPROVAL


Jon Peacock, County Manager