



## THE TOWNSHIP OF MILLBURN

375 MILLBURN AVENUE  
MILLBURN, NEW JERSEY 07041

OFFICE OF TOWNSHIP CLERK

(973) 564-7073  
FAX (973) 564-7468

December 22, 2016

The Honorable Cory Booker  
United States Senate  
One Gateway Center  
23<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102

Dear Senator Booker,

Enclosed please find Resolution 16-267, which urges the United States Congress to acknowledge the threat of climate change and to address it by putting a price on greenhouse gas emissions. The resolution was adopted by the Millburn Township Committee on December 20, 2016.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Megan Patrick  
Assistant Township Clerk

cc: C. Gatti  
Environmental Commission

**TOWNSHIP OF MILLBURN  
RESOLUTION 16-267  
URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS  
TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, AND TO ADDRESS IT  
BY PUTTING A PRICE ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the environmental movement in the United States started in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the observations and writings of Thoreau and the Transcendentalists, developed in the second half into the initiatives and proposals of Muir, Roosevelt, and Pinchot, and culminated in the 20th with the establishment of such institutions as the National Forests, the National Park System, the National Monuments, and the Environmental Protection Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, public and private interest in the environment has led to the formation of many nongovernmental organizations dedicated to special segments of the environment, such as the Sierra Club, the Audubon Societies, the NRDC, the National Wildlife Federation, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and others too numerous to name, all working to educate the public and lobby the Congress; and

**WHEREAS**, more than a century of hard effort by government and these interested parties has put in place a structure of forward-looking social and environmental programs and sensible regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, over nearly two centuries environmental matters have developed from mere interest in nature to issues of mass pollution, habitat degradation, climate change, and species survival; and

**WHEREAS**, in particular the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded in its 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report, Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis, that "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal" and "It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century"; and,

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences has stated that "It is now more certain than ever, based on many lines of evidence, that humans are changing Earth's climate. The atmosphere and oceans have warmed, accompanied by sea-level rise, a strong decline in Arctic sea ice, and other climate-related changes."; and,

**WHEREAS**, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports that average global surface temperatures of the earth in 2015 IPCC were 0.90 degrees centigrade above the 20th century average; and,

**WHEREAS**, conservative estimates by the world's climate scientists state that to achieve climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases must be brought to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and,

**WHEREAS**, 195 nations including the United States have agreed, pursuant to the Paris Accords, to collectively;"Hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above preindustrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above preindustrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change"; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2014 National Climate Assessment found that continued warming of the atmosphere will cause New Jersey to experience longer and hotter heat waves; worsening flood and drought cycles, sea-level rise, threats to infrastructure, and harm to agriculture; and,

**WHEREAS**, Millburn Township, with the advice of its Environmental Commission, acknowledges that climate change poses clear and present threats to Millburn Township, to New Jersey, and indeed to the whole planet, and declares that:

- (1) It expects national and local policy decisions to be based on science and quantifiable facts; and,
- (2) It supports the protection, conservation, and good stewardship of the environment; and,
- (3) It demands efforts to address climate change by legislation and economic incentive; and

**WHEREAS**, Millburn Township understands that the cogency of a resolution such as this is greatly increased by including a specific, well vetted proposal for endorsement and action; and

**WHEREAS**, presently the environmental, health, and social effects of carbon emissions are neither adequately quantified nor represented in the prices paid for fossil fuels, but are imposed on the planet without accountability or control, and in this externalized form shall be borne directly and indirectly by all Americans and global citizens; and,

**WHEREAS**, to begin to correct this planning and market failure, Congress can enact a national carbon tax on fossil fuels, based on the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> the fuel will emit when burned; and,

**WHEREAS**, for efficient administration, fossil fuels can be taxed once, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Citizens' Climate Education Corporation (CCE contracted a third party, Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. (REMI) to do a nation-wide macroeconomic study on the impact of a revenue-neutral carbon tax and found that after 10 years, a revenue-neutral carbon tax would lead to a decrease in GHG emissions by 33 percent, an increase in GOP and national employment of 2.1 million jobs, 13,000 lives saved annually and an increase in real incomes of \$500 per person; and,

**WHEREAS**, the REMI study also describes how a revenue-neutral carbon tax would enable the United States to meet its commitments under the Paris Accords while growing GOP, creating jobs and saving lives; and,

**WHEREAS**, the REMI study also states that border adjustments (carbon content-based tariffs on products imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing), and refunds to U.S. exporters for carbon taxes paid, can maintain the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in global markets; and,

**THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED**, that Millburn Township urge the United States Congress to adopt policies leading to reduction of the threat of climate change to Millburn Township, to draft without delay legislation to minimize greenhouse gas emissions, and to consider in particular levying a tax on carbon-based fossil fuels, with the provisos (1) that all tax revenue be

returned to households to protect low- and middle-income Americans from the impact of price rises due to the tax, and (2) that the legislation include cross-border adjustments to protect the international competitiveness of U.S. businesses; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be distributed to U.S. Senators Robert Menendez and Cory Booker and U.S. Representative Leonard Lance.

Adopted by Township Committee on December 20, 2016

I, Christine A. Gatti, Township Clerk of the Township of Millburn, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, hereby certify this to be a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Committee on December 20, 2016.

  
Christine A. Gatti, RMC  
Township Clerk

INTRODUCED	SECONDED	COMMITTEE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
✓		BURSTEIN	✓			
		MOUNT	✓			
	✓	ROSENBERG	✓			
		TILLOTSON	✓			
		BOURKE	✓			