

RESOLUTION #11
(Series of 2016)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASPEN, COLORADO, URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO INTRODUCE AND THEN PASS LEGISLATION THAT LEVIES AN ANNUALLY INCREASING REVENUE-NEUTRAL FEE ON THE CARBON IN FOSSIL FUELS AT THE POINT OF PRODUCTION OR IMPORTATION.

WHEREAS, climate scientists worldwide agree that Earth is warming rapidly to a degree that is perilous to human civilization, numerous species, and to the global ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the primary cause of the rapid warming is human activity, especially through the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gasses (GHGs) such as carbon dioxide (CO₂); and

WHEREAS, the United States Global Change Research Program, anticipates that inaction on reducing global emissions of CO₂ will lead to increased heat, drought, insect outbreaks, flooding and wildfires coupled with declining water supplies, reduced agricultural yields and a myriad of health impacts throughout the Southwestern United States; and

WHEREAS, the likely impacts of unmitigated climate change on Aspen could pose serious threats to the region's economy, ecology and heritage; and

WHEREAS, every additional release of GHGs diminishes the chances of avoiding damaging climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City of Aspen City Council has a record of acknowledging the reality of climate change, its probable effects on the community, and the City's ability and responsibility to reduce its contribution to the causes of climate change, as evidenced by the City's Canary Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, local action is necessary yet insufficient to avoid catastrophic climate change; and

WHEREAS, national and international policies to reduce GHG emissions must be rapidly implemented; and

WHEREAS, Aspen citizens representing the Aspen chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby have identified a policy known as Carbon Fee and Dividend as an optimal, revenue-neutral policy to reduce economy-wide GHG emissions at the national scale, and request a Council Resolution endorsing this policy to strengthen their efforts in lobbying at the federal level; and

WHEREAS, such an instrument would encourage consumers and the market to transition away from carbon-based energy and fuels to clean energy sources; and

WHEREAS, a revenue-neutral “**carbon fee and dividend**” is a superior, economically efficient and market based method to reduce carbon emissions:

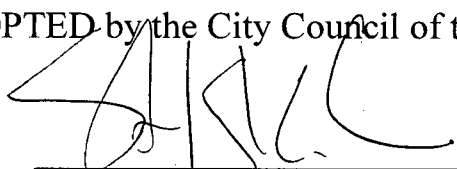
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASPEN, COLORADO, that the governing body recognizes the pollution caused by burning fossil fuels is recognized by scientists as a primary cause of climate change, and that an effective and efficient measure to address this problem is the **enactment of a revenue-neutral fee on carbon production at its source, with the fees being returned to Americans as a dividend.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governing body:

1. Strongly urges the U.S Congress to pass legislation that levies an annually increasing revenue-neutral fee on the carbon in fossil fuels at the point of production or importation, that would be sufficient to reduce US GHG emissions to climate-safe levels by 2050; and
2. Requests that the U.S. Congress construct and implement this policy with the speed appropriate to the gravity and urgency of the situation.

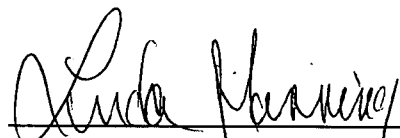
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the City’s Congressional Delegation.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Aspen on the 8th day of February 2016.



Steven Skadron, Mayor

I, Linda Manning, duly appointed and acting City Clerk do certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of that resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Aspen, Colorado, at a meeting held February 8th, 2016.



Linda Manning, City Clerk