



Date: 08/28/2017

Item No: 17-316

Assigned to Councilor: Faircloth

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
BANGOR, MAINE

SEP 05 2017

A TRUE COPY ATTEST

Urging the United States Congress to enact a Revenue-Neutral Carbon Tax and Dividend

WHEREAS, the Bangor City Council recognizes that the health of the citizens of Bangor is dependent upon the quality of our air, water and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, much of the State of Maine's economy, including agriculture, fishing, forestry, and tourism are largely dependent upon a stable climate; and

WHEREAS, the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute agrees with the consensus of climate scientists worldwide, that the climate is rapidly changing, and that the changes are associated with increased concentrations in the atmosphere of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gas pollutants derived principally as emissions from fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and natural gas; and

WHEREAS, the State has pursued efforts through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and by other means to reduce the burning of fossil fuels for energy generation, and is on target to use at least 25% renewable energy by 2025; and

WHEREAS, further reductions of CO₂ emissions are warranted in order to stay below the 2°C global temperature rise that is generally acknowledged to be a dangerous threshold, and that putting a price on carbon fuels ("a carbon fee") is widely accepted by economists as being the most effective means to achieve this goal; and

WHEREAS, a Carbon Fee and Dividend system with the fee being levied at the extraction point of fossil fuels or point of entry into the US, with all monies returned to households as a dividend would leverage market forces to encourage investments in increased energy efficiency and alternate sources of energy by both industry and consumers.

Be it Resolved by the City Council of the City of Bangor that,

the City of Bangor supports the implementation of a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend system, with all monies from carbon fees being returned to households as a carbon dividend.

Be it Further Resolved by the City Council of Bangor that, the City of Bangor strongly encourages the U.S. Congress to enact a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend system with the speed appropriate to the gravity and urgency of the situation, and in recognition of the benefits realized transitioning to clean energy.