



RESOLUTION # 55-12/17

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 12-9

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 26
Against: -
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: 3
Vote Req: -
Other Action: -

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 8
Against: 8
Abstain: 8
Abs/Excd: 1

RE: RECOGNIZING CLIMATE CHANGE AND URGING CONGRESS TO LEVY A REVENUE-NEUTRAL FEE ON CARBON IN FOSSIL FUELS

WHEREAS, climate scientists worldwide are in near-unanimous agreement that the Earth is warming rapidly which is causing changes in climate that are perilous to the Earth's natural systems and to human civilization; and,

WHEREAS, the primary cause of that warming is human activity, especially through the combustion of fossil fuels which emit greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂); and,

WHEREAS, the continued use of fossil fuels is being supported by a market failure whereby the costs of carbon emissions are not included in the price of fossil fuels; and,

WHEREAS, the urgent need to transition away from fossil fuels can best be accomplished with a market-based program, namely a revenue-neutral carbon fee on fossil fuel producers with a corresponding rebate or dividend to consumers; and,

WHEREAS, using a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend to reduce carbon emissions would have the following benefits:

1. The carbon fee would incentivize the development and use of energy efficiency and low carbon energy sources and minimize the need for onerous governmental energy regulations and subsidies that attempt to forecast winners and losers.
2. The transition to low-carbon energy sources will provide a range of additional benefits including enhanced public health, job creation and strengthening of the U.S. economy, increased energy security, and increased local energy development in rural areas.
3. Even though the carbon fee would temporarily increase energy costs including electric rates, and the cost of living, those costs would be offset by the revenue returned to households on an equal basis as a dividend such that the bottom 55-60% of households by income would break even or receive more in dividends than they would pay in higher living expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors that the County Board strongly urges the United States 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:

- a. Encourage individuals and businesses to produce and use less fossil fuels;
- b. Make the transition from fossil fuels less onerous to consumers and to the economy by returning to Americans on an equal basis all of the revenues gained from the fee;
- c. Reduce U.S. CO₂ emissions to 10% of 1990 levels by 2050;
- d. Encourage similar actions by other nations trading with the United States, by suitable carbon-content-based fees for imports, and rebates for exports, to nations that have not taken such actions.

RE: RECOGNIZING CLIMATE CHANGE AND URGING CONGRESS TO LEVY A REVENUE-NEUTRAL FEE ON CARBON IN FOSSIL FUELS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the La Crosse County Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the County's Congressional delegation to include Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Tammy Baldwin and Representative Ron Kind.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no cost to the County.

Date: DEC 13, 2017
[Signature]

Date: December 13, 2017
[Signature]

COMMITTEE CHAIR

RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	<u>SO</u>	_____	_____	Requested By: Mike Giese Date Requested: December 7, 2017 Drafted By: Steve O'Malley
Fin. Director	_____	_____	_____	
Corp. Counsel	_____	_____	_____	
Board Chair	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 21 Day of December, 2017

STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 21st day of December 2017.

[Signature]
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk