

Resolution No. 2017-171 N.C.S.  
of the City of Petaluma, California

**RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT A  
REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated in its recently released 5th Assessment Report, *Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis*, that “[w]arming of the climate system is unequivocal” and “[i]t is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century”; and

**WHEREAS**, in May of 2013, the global atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide reached 400 parts per million, the highest level in the last 800,000 years; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 2014, two separate scientific papers were published in the journals *Science* and *Geophysical Research Letter* documenting dramatic retreats of Antarctic glaciers and predicting that large-scale destruction of the West Antarctic ice sheets is likely now inevitable and will lead to sea level rises of 10 feet or more; and

**WHEREAS**, conservative estimates by climate scientists throughout the world state that to achieve climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases must be brought to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Division 25.5 (commencing with Section 38500) of the Health and Safety Code) commits the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and the Governor’s Executive Order S-3-05 further calls on the State to establish a policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Petaluma supports powerful new policies to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in accordance with the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement despite the United States’ formal withdrawal from that accord; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Petaluma recognizes the threat that uncontrolled sea level rise moreover recognizes the need for poses to our local well-being, economic activity, and survivability as a community, and continued urgent action on a broad scale to counter the degradation of the natural and economic environment that results from warming temperatures and ocean acidification; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress can enact a national carbon tax on fossil fuels, based on the amount of carbon dioxide 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**, a national, revenue-neutral carbon tax starting at a relatively low rate and increasing steadily over future years is a market-based solution that would minimally disrupt the economy while sending a clear and predictable price signal to businesses to develop and use noncarbon-based energy resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Citizens' Climate Education Corporation Commissioned Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) to do a nation-wide macroeconomic study on the impact of a revenue-neutral carbon tax; and

**WHEREAS**, REMI's study predicted that after 10 years, a revenue-neutral carbon tax would lead to a decrease in carbon dioxide emissions by 33 percent, an increase in national employment by 2.1 million jobs, and an average monthly dividend for a family of four of \$288; and

**WHEREAS**, border adjustments such as carbon-content-based tariffs on products imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing and refunds to our exporters of carbon taxes paid can maintain the competitiveness of United States businesses in global markets; and

**WHEREAS**, a national carbon tax can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and respond to the urgency of the climate crisis, because the federal government already has in place mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service, needed to implement and enforce the tax and already collects taxes from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

**WHEREAS**, a national carbon tax would make the United States a leader in mitigating climate change and the advancing clean energy technologies of the 21st Century, and would incentivize other countries to enact similar carbon taxes, thereby reducing global carbon dioxide emissions without the need for complex international agreements.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Petaluma along with other cities, businesses, and organizations urge the United States Congress to enact, without delay, a tax on carbon-based fossil fuels with the stipulations that:

- the tax should be collected once, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States;

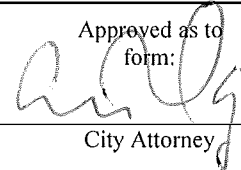
- the tax rate should start low and increase steadily and predictably to achieve the goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the United States to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050;
- all tax revenue should be returned to middle- and low-income Americans to protect them from the impact of rising prices due to the tax;
- that the international competitiveness of United States businesses should be protected by using carbon-content-based tariffs and tax refunds; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Manager of Petaluma transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator from California in the Congress of the United States, to the member representing Petaluma in the House of Representatives in Congress and to the author of this legislation for appropriate distribution.

Under the power and authority conferred upon this Council by the Charter of said City.

**REFERENCE:** I hereby certify the foregoing Resolution was introduced and adopted by the Council of the City of Petaluma at a Regular meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017, by the following vote:

Approved as to form:



City Attorney


**AYES:** Albertson, Vice Mayor Barrett, Mayor Glass, Healy, Kearney, King, Miller

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**ATTEST:**   
City Clerk

  
Mayor