

TOWN OF PITTSFORD

SETTLED 1789

Office of the Supervisor

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December 21, 2017

Hon. Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
Hon. Charles Schumer, Minority Leader
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate

Hon. Paul Ryan, Majority Leader
Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader
Hon. Louise Slaughter, 25th District
United States House of Representatives

Re: Carbon Fee and Dividend

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As citizens and municipal officials, the undersigned members of the Pittsford Town Board recognize the effects from use of fossil fuels and its consequences for public health and the environment.

We urge Congress to make effective use of free-market mechanisms to help mitigate these effects, by enacting legislation for a Carbon Fee and Dividend (“CFD”). As a revenue-neutral means to promote transition to greater energy conservation and more renewable sources of energy, a CFD would not burden citizens financially. Because the fee component would be levied uniformly, a CFD would be easier to administer than such alternatives as a cap and trade system.

A CFD would motivate conservation and promote renewable energy without extensive regulation, by providing incentive to replace carbon-based fuel with sustainable sources of energy. This would promote energy efficiency and the use of less carbon-intensive fuels. This incentive could encourage innovation as well in the automobile industry, mass transportation, building design and construction, heating, lighting, air conditioning and in other industries.

Moreover, by incentivizing development of alternative energy sources and related technologies, a CFD could minimize or eliminate the need for government subsidies that, often clumsily, attempt to forecast alternative energy successes and failures.

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It is estimated that the dividend component of a CFD could benefit approximately 70% of American households, putting money into local economies and creating jobs.

For these reasons we ask the Congress of the United States to consider a Carbon Fee and Dividend that would:

- a) Place a fee on fossil fuels at the source;
- b) Return all revenue from the fee as a dividend to all households equally; and
- c) Apply a border adjustment on goods imported from, or exported to, countries without an equivalent fee on carbon-based fuels.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



William A. Smith, Jr.
Town Supervisor



Katherine Bohne Munzinger
Town Councilmember



Matthew J. O'Connor
Town Councilmember