

CLIMATE CHANGE RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Fairfield, acting as the municipal officers as follows:

WHEREAS, Maine recognizes that the health of our citizens is dependent on the high quality of our air, water and natural resources, and that the health of much of the state's economy, including agriculture, fishing, forestry and tourism are favored by a stable climate; and

WHEREAS, the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute agrees with the consensus of climate scientists worldwide, that our climate is changing rapidly, and that changes are associated with increased concentrations in the atmosphere of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gas pollutants, derived principally as emissions from burning fossil fuels (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, the fee being levied at the extraction point of fossil fuels or port 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Fairfield, Maine supports the implementation of a carbon fee and dividend system on the understanding that it be revenue-neutral, with net revenues from carbon fees being returned to households as a carbon dividend, and that it: a) reduces US CO₂-equivalent emissions to 10% of 1990 levels; b) encourages similar actions by other nations trading with the United States by suitable carbon-content-based tariffs for imports from, and rebates for exports to, nations that have not taken similar actions; and c) that the U.S. Congress implement this policy with the speed appropriate to the gravity and urgency of the situation, and in recognition of the many benefits that will be realized by a transition to clean energy.

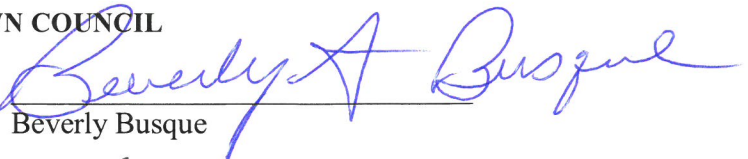
Adopted and signed this 13th day of December, 2017, at Town of Fairfield, State of Maine


FAIRFIELD TOWN COUNCIL


Michael Taylor, Chair


John Picchiotti, Vice-Chair


Aaron Rowden, Secretary


Beverly Busque


Jeffrey Neubauer


Attest: Christine Keller, Town Clerk