

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. 38-2018

On the motion of Leopold
duly seconded by Coonerty
the following resolution is adopted

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
NATIONAL REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz approved a Climate Action Strategy (CAS) in 2013, and subsequently, the Board accepted an annual report on the implementation of CAS in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the County's CAS aims to reduce emissions of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 through various programs and projects; and

WHEREAS, the County has continued to lead a grant funded, regional collaboration to study Community Choice Energy (CCE) for the Monterey Bay Area to reduce the use of fossil fuels to generate electricity by formally establishing the Monterey Bay Community Power Authority; and

WHEREAS, municipalities throughout our state are developing and abiding by similar climate action plans to comply with California's climate action goals as expressed in Assembly Bill 32 and the 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan Update which sets a climate target of 40% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030 compared to 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, California's climate goals are leading the nation and are aligned with the rest of the world in the global effort to fight climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Carbon Fee and Dividend legislative principles proposed by the non-partisan Citizens' Climate Lobby would provide an efficient approach for shifting away from the incentives that keep the United States (U.S.) reliant on fossil fuel and would, thereby, contribute to and support the rapid deployment of cleaner energy alternatives; and

WHEREAS, this approach would protect middle and low-income households by providing them with a dividend that, on average, would exceed increased energy costs for two-thirds of all households (specifically the lowest income two-thirds) during the transition to cleaner energy; and

Attachment: Resolution In Support of Carbon Fee and Dividend Legislation (Resolution in support of Carbon Fees and Dividend Policy)

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WHEREAS, per the non-partisan study by Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), this approach would also ensure a substantial increase in private investment in cleaner energy options because they will become significantly less expensive relative to fossil fuels within a known time frame; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of sustainable energy alternatives in relation to annual increased costs for fossil fuel would encourage consumers and businesses to keep their carbon footprint smaller while keeping energy affordable; and

WHEREAS, a 2014 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has concluded that, since the 1950s, the increased temperatures in the atmosphere and in the ocean have led to rises in sea levels and accelerated ocean acidification with increased concentrations of greenhouse gases on a global level that are unprecedented for a period of similar duration throughout the known climatological record; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent report of the United States Global Change Research Program, "leaders and residents of coastal regions are increasingly aware of the high vulnerability of coasts to climate change and are developing plans to prepare for potential impacts on citizens, businesses, and environmental assets," and the many direct climate change impacts anticipated for Santa Cruz County include higher sea levels with increased coastal erosion, increases in air temperatures, possible shifts in precipitation, severe storms, drought with a secondary impact being an increased risk in exposure to wildfire, salt water intrusion and its disruption to fresh ground water and agriculture, and ocean acidification; and

WHEREAS, the immediate adoption of the Citizens' Climate Lobby Carbon Fee and Dividend Legislation in the United States would grow the economy by adding over two million new jobs, would help make us a world leader in cleaner energy technologies, and would help establish the U.S. as a leader in future global climate negotiations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors encourages the U.S. Congress to immediately enact legislation, and encourages the President of the U.S. to sign into law, a fee on carbon-based fuels at their point of entry into our economy, and that the fee should begin low, at \$15/ton of CO₂ emitted when burned, and rise by \$10/ton per year to achieve the goal of reducing U.S. CO₂ emissions to 10% of 1990 levels by 2050, that all fee revenue should be returned to households as a dividend to protect low and middle-income households from the impact of rising prices due to the fee, that the international competitiveness of U.S. businesses should be protected by using carbon content-based border tariffs and refunds, and that the response in combating climate change to mitigate its worst effects should be implemented with the speed appropriate to the gravity and urgency of the situation.

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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON FEE
AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz,
State of California, this 13th day of March, 2018, by the following vote:

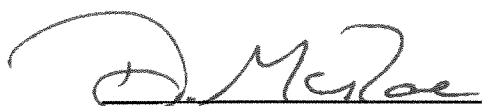
AYES: SUPERVISOR Leopold, Coonerty, Caput , McPherson, Friend
NOES: SUPERVISOR None
ABSENT: SUPERVISOR None

ZACH FRIEND

ZACH FRIEND, Chair
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: SUSAN GALLOWAY
Clerk of said Board

Approved as to form:



County Counsel

DISTRIBUTION:

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