



Town of Shutesbury, Massachusetts 01072

Resolution for Federal and State Carbon Fee and Dividend

WHEREAS, Climate change poses a serious threat to the Town of Shutesbury in terms of the economy, public health, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, As a result of climate change, the Northeast is experiencing warming temperatures and a large increase in the amount of rainfall measured during heavy precipitation events; and

WHEREAS, More frequent heat waves in the Northeast are expected to increasingly threaten human health through more heat stress, droughts, and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, Sea level rise and more frequent heavy rains are expected to increase flooding and storm surge, threatening people and infrastructure, necessitating increased costs for damage control; and

WHEREAS, As temperatures rise, agriculture will likely face reduced yields, potentially damaging livelihoods and the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, Carbon Fee and Dividend will significantly reduce carbon emissions, create jobs, grow the economy, save lives, and protect households from higher energy prices; and

WHEREAS, Most economists, from conservative to liberal, agree that the most cost-effective way to cut carbon pollution is to add a fee that steadily raises the price of fossil fuels, and

WHEREAS, Legislation addressing climate change should not economically burden Shutesbury and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Carbon Fee and Dividend will protect lower and middle-income households, as two thirds of families will break even or receive more in dividends than they would pay for in higher living expenses; and

WHEREAS, Carbon Fee and Dividend will create jobs, as the dividend puts money back into local economies; and

WHEREAS, Carbon Fee and Dividend is a market-based solution in which a fee is levied on carbon-based fuels as they come out of the ground or as they are imported, with all monies returned in equal shares to households as a dividend, thus leveraging market forces that encourage investments in increased energy efficiency and alternate sources of energy by both industry and consumers; and

WHEREAS, Carbon fee and Dividend will employ a "border adjustment" to protect domestic businesses. The "border adjustment" will use import/export fees and rebates to neutralize any impact to the cost of domestically produced products, and incentivize other states to adopt a comparable carbon fee; and

WHEREAS, In the absence of federal Carbon Fee and Dividend, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts can pass state Carbon Fee and Dividend (or "Rebate")

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN OF SHUTESBURY calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature and the United States Congress to implement Carbon Fee and Dividend (or "Rebate"), placing a steadily rising fee on carbon-based fuels, and returning all fees collected, minus administrative costs, to households.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT UPON PASSAGE the Shutesbury Town Clerk shall mail copies of the resolution and vote to the President of the United States, Donald Trump; the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Paul Ryan; the House Minority leader, Nancy Pelosi; the Majority and Minority leaders of the U.S. Senate, Mitch McConnell and Charles Schumer; the U.S. Senators representing Massachusetts, Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren; the Congressperson representing our district, James McGovern; the Governor of Massachusetts, Charlie Baker; the Massachusetts Senate President (also our state senator), Stan Rosenberg; the Speaker of the Massachusetts House, Robert DeLeo; and the state representative from our district, Stephen Kulik.

This resolution passed with two abstentions at the Shutesbury Annual Town Meeting, May 6, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Mosher

Susie Mosher
Town Clerk
P. O. Box 264
Shutesbury, MA 01072
May 26, 2017

A TRUE COPY

4/6/2018

ATTEST

Susie Mosher