

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-04

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
SUPPORTING A NATIONAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND POLICY**


- WHEREAS,** the City and Borough of Sitka is the governing body with the full power and authority as recognized by the citizens of Sitka, to act for its members, and has the responsibility to provide government for the good health and welfare of its citizens; and
- WHEREAS,** progress toward the development of a local climate action plan for Sitka began early in 2008 following a series of presentations on ocean acidification and climate action planning sponsored by fishing and environmental organizations; and
- WHEREAS,** the citizens of Sitka are reliant on our oceans and forests and the wildlife and resources contained within them, in our economies including fisheries and tourism, our way of life including subsistence food gathering, cultural and historical importance; and
- WHEREAS,** The City and Borough of Sitka supports all cultural, traditional and subsistence activities historically and continually practiced by Native and non-Native peoples in the State of Alaska and these practices can be irreparably harmed by major changes in our climate; and
- WHEREAS,** the citizens of Sitka recognize that global climate change includes the general warming of the climate, arctic melting, ocean acidification, and increase in severe weather events, from severe winter snows to massive precipitation events like the one experienced on August 18, 2015; and
- WHEREAS,** reductions of CO2 emissions are warranted to prevent further global warming, particularly in Northern latitudes where temperatures are climbing at a more rapid rate than the rest of the globe; and
- WHEREAS,** the City and its residents bear much of the economic burden for severe weather events and fisheries impacts, but local emission reductions alone are insufficient to prevent the progression of climate change, national action is necessary to urgently lower CO2 in the atmosphere and oceans; and
- WHEREAS,** an annually increasing Carbon Fee levied at the extraction point of fossil fuels or point of entry into the United States will begin to account for the external costs of fossil fuel use and unleash market forces to find the most cost-effective ways to reduce emissions; and
- WHEREAS,** all money collected in fees returned to households as a dividend would protect or minimize the economic effects on households while also encouraging investments in increased energy efficiency and alternate sources of energy by both industry and consumers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka to strongly urge the U.S. Congress to enact legislation that:

- A. Levies an annually increasing fee on carbon dioxide and greenhouse gas equivalent emissions produced by fossil fuels at the point of production and importation;
- B. Returns to Americans on an equitable basis all of the net revenues generated from the fee; and
- C. Encourages carbon pricing action by other nations trading with the United States, by suitable carbon-content-based fees for imports, and rebates for exports, to nations that do not have equivalent carbon pricing to that of the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City and Borough of Sitka Municipal Clerk will forward a copy of this resolution to the delegation in the U.S. Congress representing Sitka and Alaska within 30 days of enactment.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska this 27th day of February, 2018.



Matthew Hunter, Mayor

ATTEST:



Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk

2/27/18 1st and final reading PASSED (motion for reconsideration made)
3/13/18 motion to reconsider FAILED, the initial vote from 2/27/18 stands