

## RESOLUTION NO 2018-02

### AFFIRMING BELLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR STATE AND NATIONAL EFFORTS TO ENACT A CARBON FEE

**WHEREAS**, the Paris Agreement marked the momentous occasion when the community of nations agreed that anthropogenic climate change is real and committed to implement action plans to reduce carbon emissions and reverse the rate of global warming, and;

**WHEREAS**, all governments, national, subnational, and local, in order to meet the obligations of the Paris Agreement, must each do their proportionate share by taking meaningful action to address the climate threat, and;

**WHEREAS**, unmitigated climate change will cause extended drought periods and extreme rainfall events that will deplete and erode remaining fertile agricultural top soils, and;

**WHEREAS**, unmitigated climate change will create unstable living conditions in United States communities by increasing frequency of drought, wild fire, flood, disease, heat, and population displacement, and;

**WHEREAS**, community leaders have the responsibility to direct community resources to improve access to healthy food, clean water, and fresh air, and;

**WHEREAS**, we are witnessing the impact of climate change in our local environment in the form of longer wildfire seasons and shorter ski seasons, and;

**WHEREAS**, the chemistry of our Salish Sea is changing, impacting the vitality of local shellfish and salmon fisheries, and;

**WHEREAS**, community and family health requires fertile soil, water, and clean air, and;

**WHEREAS**, the impact of climate change is calling on the people of Bellingham to take action to preserve the quality of life we have worked so diligently to create and maintain so as to guarantee it for future generations, and;

**WHEREAS**, phased-in carbon fees on greenhouse gas emissions are the most efficient, transparent, and enforceable mechanism to drive an effective and fair transition to a less carbon-intensive economy, by unleashing the power of the free market to identify the most effective solutions, and;

**WHEREAS**, a study by Regional Economic Models Inc. predicted that, after ten years, a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend program would decrease carbon-dioxide emissions by 33%, increase national employment by 2.1 million jobs, and return an average monthly dividend of \$288 to a family of four.

Bellingham City Council  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
360-778-8200

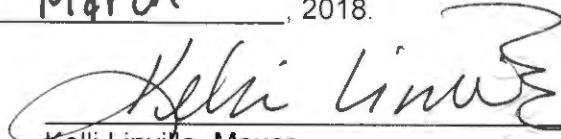
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Bellingham strongly urges the Washington State Legislature to pass legislation that imposes a fee on each ton of carbon emitting fossil fuels at the point of production and importation, with a sunset clause in the case that national carbon legislation is passed, and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council of the City of Bellingham similarly urges the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that deals effectively with the climate change problem at the national level – such as levying an annually increasing fee on the carbon in fossil fuels at the point of production and importation.

**PASSED** by the Council this 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2018.


  
Roxanne Murphy, Council President

**APPROVED** by me this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

  
Kelli Linville, Mayor

**ATTEST:**   
Brian Henshaw, Finance Director

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

  
Office of the City Attorney

Bellingham City Council  
210 Lottie Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225  
360-778-8200