

**RESOLUTION  
2018-114**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL CLIMATE POLICY  
IN THE FORM OF A REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND**

**WHEREAS**, there is scientific consensus regarding changes to our climate caused by human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change has been widely recognized by government, business and academic leaders as a worldwide threat to our economy, safety, public health, and quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, in a 2018 report Resilient Analytics concluded that as a direct result of climate change in Boulder County droughts would increase and last longer, wildfires would be bigger and more frequent, days of extreme heat would increase, and the potential for flood events would increase; and

**WHEREAS**, the Resilient Analytics report conservatively estimated that the cost of climate change adaptation and mitigation in Boulder County would cost between \$115 and \$177 million dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, current and former Boulder County Commissioners have a record of recognizing and preparing for climate change through strategies to reduce greenhouse gases and plan for community resiliency; and

**WHEREAS**, Boulder County has a Climate Action Plan to address climate change including a local goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 90% below 2005 levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) has proposed a revenue neutral carbon fee and dividend levied at the point of production as a method to reduce carbon emissions nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, the CCL carbon fee and dividend proposal would be efficient in motivating energy consumers to conserve and adopt renewable energy without the need for extensive government regulatory controls or subsidies that attempt to forecast alternative energy winners and losers; and

**WHEREAS**, the CCL carbon fee and dividend proposal would be effective by providing market incentives for energy providers to adopt innovative practices for carbon neutral energy production and consumer incentives to adopt energy conservation measures including, but not limited to, electric vehicles, mass transportation, energy efficient building design, etc.; and

**WHEREAS**, many economists across the political spectrum support this kind of revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend as the most effective greenhouse gas mitigation strategy for the U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, the dividend portion of the policy protects lower-income people from the adverse effects of the price increases induced by the carbon fee; and

**WHEREAS**, further delays in reducing emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere only increases the risk and impact of global climate change to Boulder County, the State of Colorado and the world.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Boulder County Board of Commissioners:**

That Boulder County strongly requests that the U.S. Congress act with urgency to pass legislation that levies an annually increasing revenue neutral fee and dividend on fossil fuels as proposed by Citizens Climate Lobby.

The fee and dividend should be sufficient to: 1) Provide an economic incentive for individuals and corporations to produce and use less fossil fuels; and 2) make the transition from fossil fuels financially feasible to citizens by returning the fees collected in an equitable fashion to consumers.

ADOPTED this 11<sup>th</sup> DAY OF October 2018.



**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF BOULDER COUNTY**

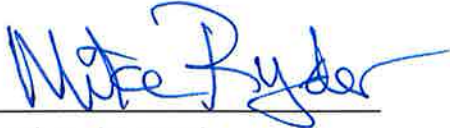
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cindy Domenico, Chair

(Excused)

  
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Elise Jones, Vice Chair

  
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Deb Gardner, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
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Clerk to the Board