PRESENT:

WILLIAM W. MOEHLLE,
Supervisor

JAMES R. VOGEL
CHRISTOPHER K. WERNER
JASON S. DIPONZIO
ROBIN R. WILT,
Councilmembers

WHEREAS, the Town of Brighton supports strong federal legislation to address the urgency of climate change because each day brings further scientific evidence that the impacts of climate change are accelerating, and the window of opportunity to avoid irreversible global impacts is quickly closing; and

WHEREAS, the Town has created a Climate Action Plan to reduce carbon emissions in its own operations and throughout the community; and

WHEREAS, as a result of climate change the Northeast is experiencing warming temperatures and increased rainfall during heavy precipitation events, which threaten flooding, aging infrastructure and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the frequency and intensity of heat waves are expected to increase as are the severity of droughts which will negatively impact resources management and hydroelectric generation which, in turn, increases the risk of long-term power outages; and

WHEREAS, efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions around the United States can strengthen our economy, and that such continued efforts will lead to improved efficiencies which will make companies more competitive and will increase investment in transportation options; and

WHEREAS, a price on carbon that more accurately reflects its true cost, particularly as an energy source that can be replaced by more
sustainable and renewable energy sources will create a level playing field across industries and unleash the power of market forces to find the most cost-effective ways to reduce emissions and also provide clear direction to businesses, which currently face considerable uncertainty around carbon pricing, thus delaying key investments.

NOW THEREFORE, we, Supervisor William Moehle, and the Brighton Town Board hereby resolve and urge Congress to implement a comprehensive climate change policy which might include a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend, or a well-designed cap and trade or similar system, implemented in a manner that does not unfairly penalize local government by excluding them from carbon dividends or other features that provide a refund in whole or in part of carbon price increases to individuals, and that considers the disproportionate impact of increases in carbon pricing on lower income families; and be it further.

RESOLVED: that we urge the Governor and Legislature to amend the New York State tax cap to exclude capital expenditures designed to promote energy efficiency and other expenses incurred by municipalities from state or federal climate change directives.

Dated: March 28, 2018

William W. Moehle, Supervisor
James R. Vogel, Councilmember
Christopher K. Werner, Councilmember
Jason S. DiPonzio, Councilmember
Robin R. Wilt, Councilmember