

RESOLUTION NO. 102-2018

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BURLINGAME URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT A REVENUE-NEUTRAL TAX ON CARBON-BASED FOSSIL FUELS

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels, are causing rising global temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the average surface temperature on Earth has been increasing steadily, and current estimates are that the average global temperature by the year 2100 will be 2 degrees Fahrenheit to 11.5 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the current average global temperature, depending on the level of GHG emissions trapped in the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the global atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) exceeded 410 parts per million (ppm) in June 2018, the highest level in three million years and clearly out of synch with long term geological patterns; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence indicates that it is necessary to reduce the global atmospheric concentration of CO₂ from the current concentration of more than 400 ppm to 350 ppm or less in order to slow or stop the rise in global temperature; and

WHEREAS, global warming is already leading to large-scale problems including ocean acidification and rising sea levels; more frequent, extreme, and damaging weather events such as heat waves, storms, heavy rainfall and flooding, and droughts; more frequent and intense wildfires; disrupted ecosystems affecting biodiversity and food production; and an increase in heat-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, further global warming poses an unacceptable risk of catastrophic impacts to the ecosystems on which all life depends; and

WHEREAS, warming air temperatures lead to the physical expansion of ocean water and to additional water in the oceans from melting ice, and therefore will lead inevitably to rising levels of San Francisco Bay, which will directly threaten and possibly destroy valuable private and public lands in Burlingame, including but not limited to land owners who are responsible for over 1/3 of the City's tax revenues, baseball parks, walking paths, a high school, and office buildings, thereby imperiling the City's ability to provide crucial services to future citizens and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) commits the State of California to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and the State has further established goals to reduce GHG emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 (SB 32), and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 (Executive Order S-3-05); and

WHEREAS, the environmental, health, and social costs of CO₂ emissions are not currently included in the price paid for fossil fuels, and these negative externalities are borne by all global inhabitants, particularly those in disadvantaged communities and communities near oceans; and

WHEREAS, a national carbon tax will benefit the economy, human health, the environment, and national security as a result of correcting market distortions, driving innovation

and employment into green energy, reducing toxic pollutants, reducing the outflow of dollars to oil-producing countries, and improving the energy security of the United States; and

WHEREAS, a phased-in carbon tax on GHG emissions: 1) is an efficient, transparent, and enforceable mechanism to drive an effective and fair transition to a renewable energy economy, 2) will incentivize manufacturers, businesses, and consumers throughout the economy to use less fossil fuel, which will lead to reduction in demand and therefore supply, and 3) will stimulate investment in alternative-energy; and

WHEREAS, monthly dividends (or "rebates") from the funds generated by the carbon tax paid to American households can mitigate the added costs to consumers, especially for families who can least afford them; funds can also be set aside to help cities and counties obtain low cost loans to invest in defensive infrastructure, made necessary by rising sea levels and other impacts from global warming; and

WHEREAS, a national carbon tax, starting at a low rate and increasing steadily over future years, is a market-based solution that would minimally disrupt the economy while sending a clear and predictable price signal to businesses to develop and use non-carbon-based energy resources; and

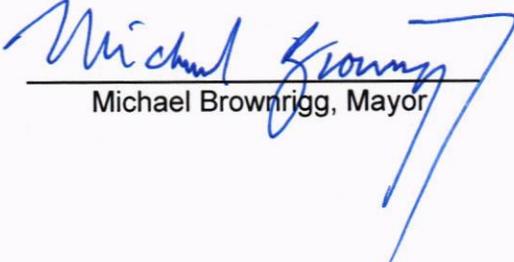
WHEREAS, fossil fuels can be taxed once, as far upstream as possible in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry to the United States, for efficient administration; and

WHEREAS, a revenue-neutral national carbon tax can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and respond to the urgency of the climate crisis, while softening the price impact on consumers and offering municipalities resources to combat climate change effects; and

WHEREAS, continued widespread use of fossil fuels and impacts due to climate change pose a present and growing risk to the residents of Burlingame, San Mateo County, across the United States, and around the world.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Burlingame that:

1. The City urges the Congress of the United State to enact, without delay, a revenue-neutral tax on carbon-based fossil fuels similar to proposed legislation endorsed by the Citizens' Climate Lobby; and
2. The tax should be collected once, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States; and
3. The tax rate should start low and increase steadily and predictably with the goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the United States to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and
4. All tax revenue should be used to mitigate the impact of the carbon tax on low and middle income Americans and to help municipalities invest in defensive infrastructure made necessary by rising sea levels and other climate-related impacts.

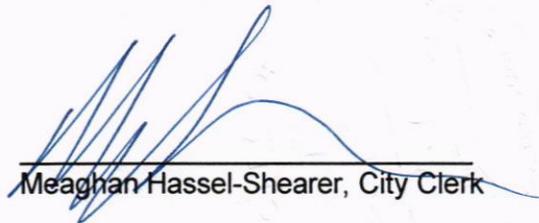

Michael Brownrigg, Mayor

I, Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, City Clerk of the City of Burlingame, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was introduced at a regular meeting of the City Council held on the 20th day of August, 2018, and was adopted thereafter by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers: BEACH, BROWNRIGG, COLSON, KEIGHRAN, ORTIZ

NOES: Councilmembers: NONE

ABSENT: Councilmembers: NONE



Meaghan Hassel-Shearer, City Clerk