

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL CONGRESSIONAL ACTION
TO ADOPT LEGISLATION FOR A CARBON FEE & DIVIDEND
POLICY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE**

WHEREAS, the weight of scientific evidence and scientific consensus indicates that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities is driving climate change, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases; and

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

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville resolved in June 2017 to stand with cities and other public and private sector partners throughout the world to advance action in accordance with the goals outlined in the Paris Climate Agreement, a globally accepted commitment to fight climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City of Charlottesville has been involved in and continues to explore a variety of important actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our community; and

WHEREAS, the external environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, phased carbon fees on greenhouse gas emissions are an efficient, transparent, and enforceable market-based mechanism to incentivize an effective and fair transition to a renewable-energy economy; and

WHEREAS, a carbon fee and dividend policy can stimulate investment in low carbon-energy technologies and give residents and businesses in Charlottesville a powerful incentive to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, a steadily increasing revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend would be minimally disruptive to the economy while sending clear and predictable price signals to individuals and business purchasing and using carbon-based energy resources; and

WHEREAS, a national carbon fee and dividend will make the U.S. a leader in mitigating climate change through a market-based mechanism, spurring innovation; and

WHEREAS, dividends from carbon fees paid to households can ensure that families can continue to afford the energy they need during a transition to a low carbon economy while simultaneously stimulating our local economy and adding jobs; and

WHEREAS, a carbon fee and dividend regime is one of many policies that could effectively reverse the unacceptable risks posed by greenhouse gas emissions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia that it encourages the U.S. Congress to enact legislation that address the significant risks posed by greenhouse gas emissions and that such legislation potentially include, but not be limited to, the following carbon fee and dividend policy components:

1. An annually increasing fee on carbon dioxide (or greenhouse gas equivalents) emissions produced by fossil fuels at the points of production and importation; and
2. A dividend that returns all the net revenues generated from the carbon dioxide fee to citizens in a manner that has a progressive incidence; and
3. Carbon-based fees and rebates for imports and exports to and from nations that have not implemented a carbon fee and dividend policy, which incentivizes trading partners to adopt similar laws to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Approved by Council
May 6, 2019



Kyna Thomas, CMC
Clerk of Council