

# Town of Harpswell

## RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A NATIONAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND POLICY

**WHEREAS**, the Select Board of Harpswell, Maine is committed to addressing the impacts of and protecting town residents from the effects of climate change and air pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Select Board recognizes that the health of our citizens is dependent on the high quality of our air, water and natural resources, and that carbon pollution in our atmosphere increases the rate of asthma and the number of premature deaths in our region; and

**WHEREAS**, carbon pollution has been directly linked to increased acidification of coastal waters, which negatively impacts marine ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change poses serious threats to Harpswell's traditional fisheries and marine economy; and

**WHEREAS**, rising sea levels due to climate change pose serious risks to coastal wetlands, Harpswell's homes and other infrastructure along our coastline; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of climate change, Maine is experiencing warming temperatures, heavier downpours from storms, and increased rainfall; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gulf of Maine is warming faster than 99% of all oceans around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Select Board recognizes that the health of much of the state's economy, including agriculture, fishing, forestry and tourism are favored by a stable climate; and

**WHEREAS**, the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute agrees with the consensus of climate scientists worldwide, that our climate is changing rapidly, and that changes are associated with increased concentrations in the atmosphere of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gas pollutants, derived principally as emissions from burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas); and

**WHEREAS**, further reductions of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are needed to stay below the 2 degree C global temperature rise that is generally acknowledged to be a dangerous threshold, and that putting a price on carbon fuels ("a carbon fee") is widely accepted by economists as being the most effective means to achieve this goal; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress has the responsibility to act swiftly and effectively on the issue of climate change, and

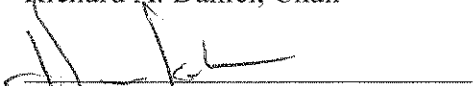
**WHEREAS**, a Carbon Fee and Dividend system, the fee being levied at the extraction point of fossil fuels or port of entry into the US, with all monies returned to households as a dividend, would leverage market forces to encourage investments in increased energy efficiency and alternate sources of energy by both industry and consumers.

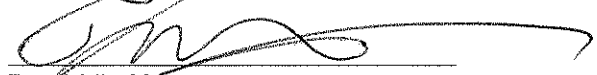
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Select Board of Harpswell, Maine supports the implementation of a carbon fee and dividend system on the understanding that it be revenue-neutral, with net revenues from carbon fees returned to households as a carbon dividend, and that the carbon fee continue to increase until US CO2-equivalent emissions are reduced to 10% of 1990 levels; and that the U.S. Congress implement this policy with the speed appropriate to the gravity and urgency of the situation, and in recognition of the many benefits that will be realized by a transition to clean energy.

Signed: Harpswell Select Board

Date: *December 14, 2018*

  
Richard A. Daniel, Chair

  
Kevin E. Johnson

  
David I. Chipman

TOWN OF HARPSWELL SEAL