

ORIGINAL

Resolution Number: 47-09-2021

Resolution Urging Congress to Support a National Policy on Climate Change Based on
a Carbon Fee & Dividend

WHEREAS increases in global average temperatures, the number and intensity of extreme weather events, sea level rise, and the melting of glacial and Arctic ice, indicate that the global climate is changing; and

WHEREAS studies by the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts project that if climate change continues unchecked, Jackson County, located in the driftless region, will experience increasingly warmer temperatures, especially during the winter months, and increasing amounts of precipitation and extreme rain events; and

WHEREAS Jackson County has experienced extreme rain events in the past five years, which have caused extensive damage to its roads, bridges, culverts, wastewater treatment facilities and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS such changes in climate may also have adverse effects on Jackson County's forests and timber industry by decreasing suitable habitat for such commercially important species as white and red oak, increasing the risk of wildfires, and increasing stress from forest pests, diseases, and non-native species; and

WHEREAS such changes in climate may also have adverse impacts on Jackson County agriculture by increasing erosion from extreme rain events, hampering access to fields at critical times, and causing alterations in late-winter freeze/thaw cycles; and

WHEREAS such changes in climate may also have adverse impacts on Jackson County's winter tourism economy by decreasing the duration of winter snow cover and rendering winter conditions less predictable; and

WHEREAS the Jackson County Board of Supervisors recognizes its role to act as stewards of the environment and the fiscal and physical resources of the county to improve our quality of life; and

WHEREAS recent reports by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the US government indicate that to avoid the worst potential impacts of climate change, urgent action is needed to reduce carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS in order to reduce carbon emissions most effectively and efficiently, leading economists (including four past chairs of the Federal Reserve Board and 27 Nobel Laureates) recommend a Carbon Pricing policy in which a gradually increasing carbon tax is placed on fossil fuels, with the proceeds thereof returned to American households

as dividends, and with a border adjustment system to protect the competitiveness of American firms internationally; and


WHEREAS bills based on Carbon Pricing, such as the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R.2307) and The Save Our Future Act (S.2085) which meet all those criteria have already been introduced in Congress; and


WHEREAS competent studies have projected that if such legislation is enacted, it will result in a substantial reduction in carbon emissions as well as increases in GDP and employment; and that the dividends received by most low and moderate-income households will be more than enough to offset price increases due to the carbon fee; and


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Jackson County Board of Supervisors urges the United States Congress to pass legislation based on Carbon Pricing, specifically a Carbon Fee & Dividend, without delay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jackson County Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Representative Ron Kind, Governor Tony Evers, State Senators Kathy Bernier, Jeff Smith and Patrick Testin, and State Representatives Treig Pronschinske, Jesse James and Nancy VanderMeer.

Respectfully Submitted:
Executive & Finance







I HEREBY CERTIFY

RESOLUTION # 47-09-2021

WAS ADOPTED ON 09/20/2021

BY JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



CINDY ALTMAN, JACKSON COUNTY CLERK

YES 17 NO 0

Absents: 2