

Resolution of the City of Jersey City, N.J.

City Clerk File No. Res. 18-932

Agenda No. 10; I

Approved: OCT 24 2018

TITLE:



A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT A REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON FEE

COUNCIL Offered and Moved for Adoption the Following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has stated in its 5th Assessment Report, Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis, that “warming of the climate system is unequivocal,” and “it is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century;” and,

WHEREAS, the National Academy of Sciences has stated that “It is now more certain than ever, based on many lines of evidence, that humans are changing Earth’s climate. The atmosphere and oceans have warmed, accompanied by sea-level rise, a strong decline in Arctic sea ice, and other climate-related changes;” and,

WHEREAS, the global atmospheric concentration of CO₂ has now surpassed 410 parts per million—the highest level in the last 800,000 years; and,

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports that average global surface temperatures of the earth in 2017 were 0.84 degrees Celsius above the 20th century average; and,

WHEREAS, the 2014 National Climate Assessment found that continued warming of the atmosphere will cause New Jersey to experience heat waves, sea-level rise, flooding, threats to infrastructure, and harm to agriculture; and,

WHEREAS, conservative estimates by the world’s climate scientists state that to achieve climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be brought to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and,

WHEREAS, presently the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but rather these externalized costs are borne directly and indirectly by all Americans and global citizens; and,

WHEREAS, to begin to correct this market failure, Congress can enact a national carbon fee on fossil fuels, based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit when burned; and,

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

WHEREAS, a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee starting at a relatively 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, the Citizens’ Climate Education Corporation (CCEC) contracted a third party, Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. (REMI) to do a nation-wide macroeconomic study on the impact of a revenue-neutral carbon fee; and,

WHEREAS, REMI’s study predicted that, after 10 years, a revenue-neutral carbon fee would lead to a decrease in CO₂ emissions by 33 percent, an increase in national employment of 2.1 million jobs, and an average monthly dividend for a family of four of \$288; and,

WHEREAS, border adjustments—carbon content-based tariffs on products imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing, and refunds to our exporters of carbon fees paid—can maintain the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in global markets; and,

WHEREAS, a national revenue-neutral carbon fee can be implemented quickly and efficiently, thereby responding to the urgency of the climate crisis, because the federal government already has in place mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service, needed to implement and enforce the fee and distribute the dividend, and already collects taxes from fossil fuel producers and importers; and,

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WHEREAS, a national carbon fee would make the United States a leader in mitigating climate change and in the clean energy technologies of the 21st Century, and would incentivize other countries to enact similar carbon fees, reducing global CO₂ emissions without the need for complex international agreements;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Jersey City urges the United States Congress to enact without delay a fee on carbon-based fossil fuels; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the fee should be collected once, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the fee rate should start low and increase steadily and predictably, to achieve the goal of reducing U.S. CO₂ emissions to 10% of 1990 levels by 2050; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all fee revenue should be returned to households to protect low and middle income Americans from the impact of rising prices due to the fee; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the international competitiveness of U.S. businesses should be protected by using carbon content-based border tariffs and fee refunds; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be distributed to U.S. Senators Robert Menendez and Cory Booker and U.S. Representatives Donald Payne, Jr. and Albio Sires.

APPROVED: _____

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM

APPROVED: [Signature]

Business Administrator

[Signature]

Corporation Counsel

Certification Required

Not Required

APPROVED 8-0

RECORD OF COUNCIL VOTE ON FINAL PASSAGE 10.24.18											
COUNCILPERSON	AYE	NAY	N.V.	COUNCILPERSON	AYE	NAY	N.V.	COUNCILPERSON	AYE	NAY	N.V.
RIDLEY	✓			YUN	✓			RIVERA	ABSENT		
PRINZ-AREY	✓			SOLOMON	✓			WATTERMAN	✓		
BOGGIANO	✓			ROBINSON	✓			LAVARRO, PRES.	✓		

✓ Indicates Vote

N.V.-Not Voting (Abstain)

Adopted at a meeting of the Municipal Council of the City of Jersey City N.J.

[Signature]
Rolando R. Lavarro, Jr., President of Council

[Signature]
Robert Byrne, City Clerk

RESOLUTION FACT SHEET – NON-CONTRACTUAL

This summary sheet is to be attached to the front of any resolution that is submitted for Council consideration. Incomplete or vague fact sheets will be returned with the resolution.

Full Title of Ordinance/Resolution

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS
TO ENACT A REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON FEE**

Initiator

Department/Division	Council Office	
Name/Title	Rolando Lavarro	Council President
Phone/email	(201) 547 5268	RLavarro@jcnj.org

Note: Initiator must be available by phone during agenda meeting (Wednesday prior to council meeting @ 4:00 p.m.)

Resolution Purpose

This resolution urges the United States Federal Government to take action to curb the output of Carbon Dioxide with the goal of slowing and hopefully one day reversing the impacts of man-made global climate change.

I certify that all the facts presented herein are accurate.



Signature of Council President

October 17, 2018, _____
Date