

RESOLUTION 2021-22 TO SUPPORT CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, climate scientists overwhelmingly agree that an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is causing rapid increase in global temperature; and

WHEREAS, the burning of carbon-based fossil fuels, coal, oil, and natural gas, is the primary cause of increases in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County has a strong and sustained commitment to protecting the health and integrity of our shared environment; and

WHEREAS, while local efforts to reduce our carbon footprint are necessary, alone, they are not sufficient to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, at present, the true environmental, health, and social costs of consuming fossil fuels is not reflected in the price of these fuels – they are hidden and borne directly or indirectly by all U.S. and global citizens; and

WHEREAS, to correct for this market failure, Congress should make these costs explicit by attaching a fee to fossil fuel carbon, at or near the point of extraction, based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit when burned; and

WHEREAS, fees collected from the production of fossil fuels should be returned to families in the form of dividends; and

WHEREAS, if all fees are returned to households in equal shares, approximately two-thirds of families would break even or come out ahead; and

WHEREAS, the effect of the fee on fossil fuel costs would be the same for all businesses, and would be easier and less expensive to administer than alternatives, such as cap and trade; and

WHEREAS, a national carbon fee can be implemented quickly and efficiently by existing federal government agencies, such as the Internal Revenue Service, which already collects taxes from fossil fuel producers and importers, and can easily distribute dividends to households; and

WHEREAS, continued widespread use of fossil fuels and resulting global climate change pose a growing threat and risk to the health, welfare, and safety of Monroe County residents, and national carbon fee and dividend legislation will significantly mitigate those risks, and promote health and welfare in our County, our region, and the world; and

WHEREAS, carbon fee and dividend legislation embodies the foregoing principles and policies; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Environmental Commission endorsed this position in its meeting of January 13, 2021 and supports the passage of this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MONROE COUNTY (INDIANA) COUNCIL THAT:

1. The Monroe County Council ("Council") urges the United States Congress to enact without delay carbon fee and dividend legislation and supports the immediate passage of such legislation.
2. The Council directs the Monroe County Auditor to send a certified copy of this Resolution to our United States Congressional Delegates and to President Joe Biden.
3. The Council urges the Monroe County Environmental Commission to monitor the activities of Congress and to report back to the Council on at least a biannual basis, to update the Council and provide suggestions to the Council and the public about what steps may be taken to further encourage carbon fee and dividend legislation and to promote this topic.

Adopted this day of 13th day of July 2021, by the County Council, Monroe County, Indiana.

MONROE COUNTY COUNCIL

"AYES"



Eric Spoonmore, President



Kate Wiltz, President Pro Tempore

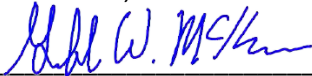


Trent Deckard, Member

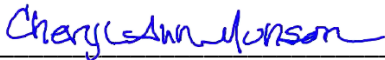
Marty Hawk, Member



Peter Iversen, Member



Geoff McKim, Member



Cheryl Munson, Member

"NAYS"

Eric Spoonmore, President

Kate Wiltz, President Pro Tempore

Trent Deckard, Member

Abstain

Marty Hawk, Member

Peter Iversen, Member

Geoff McKim, Member

Cheryl Munson, Member

Attest:

Catherine Smith
Catherine Smith, Auditor
Monroe County, Indiana