



Town of Orono

A Resolution Urging the United States Congress to Enact a Revenue-Neutral Fee on Carbon Fuels

WHEREAS, Maine recognizes that the health of its citizens is dependent on the high quality of its air, water, and natural resources and that the health of much of the state's economy, including agriculture, forestry, fishing and tourism are favored by a stable climate; and

WHEREAS, the health, welfare, and livelihood of the citizens of the Town of Orono, the State of Maine, and the United States of America are dependent on a climate with normal variation consistent with the historical record, free from extreme weather variations and events; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Orono's infrastructure and resources have been strained by an increase in extreme storms and precipitation, and this strain has, among other difficulties, led to destruction of wooded areas and road infrastructure damage; and

WHEREAS, the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute agrees with the consensus of climate scientists worldwide, that the climate is now changing rapidly, and that recent changes are associated with increased concentrations of pollutant emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases derived principally from the burning of carbon fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas); and

WHEREAS, the State has pursued efforts through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to reduce the burning of carbon fuels for generation of electricity, and is on target to reduce all emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by 2020, with plans being developed for an 80% reduction by 2050; and

WHEREAS, such reductions of CO₂ emissions worldwide are needed to stay below the 1.5°C global temperature rise that is currently acknowledged to be a dangerous climate threshold; and

WHEREAS, it is gravely clear that current public policy is insufficient to prevent significant and destructive long term changes to the climate of our Town, State, and Nation; and

WHEREAS, putting a price on carbon fuels ("a carbon fee") is widely accepted by economists as being the most effective means to achieve this goal; with revenues returned to the economy through equitable dividends distributed to all households (both as currently incorporated in the

language of H.R.763); with the intent of leveraging market forces to encourage investments in increased energy efficiency and alternate sources of energy by both industry and consumers; and

WHEREAS, this carbon-fee-and-dividend proposal is expected to be revenue-neutral (not to support government), effective (in reducing emissions), good for people (for improved health and with dividends to cover rising costs and/or choice in a free market), good for the economy (with new jobs in many sectors), and bipartisan (with support from both major political parties).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Orono

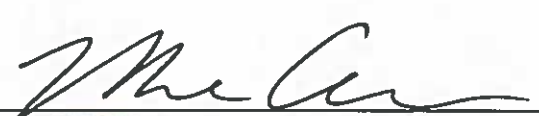
(1) Strongly urges the Maine Delegation to the U.S. Congress to support the enactment of a carbon fee and dividend system (as in H.R. 763) that both: a) reduces US CO2-equivalent emissions to 10% of 1990 levels; and b) encourages similar actions by other nations trading with the United States by suitable carbon-content-based tariffs for imports from, and rebates for exports to, nations that have not taken similar actions; and

(2) 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 benefits that will be realized by a transition to clean energy.

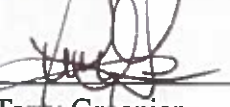
Given under our hands, the duly elected Municipal Officers of the Town of Orono, this 21st day of October, 2019:



Cynthia Mehnert, Council Chair



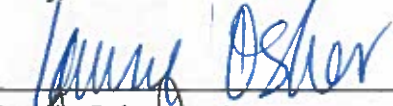
Meghan Gardner



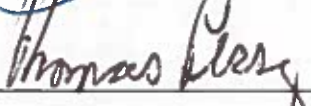
Terry Greenier




Samuel Kunz



Laurie Osher



Thomas Perry



Cheryl Robertson