



12/7/18

To Oxford City Council:

Recently the Environmental Commission was requested to support a resolution calling for the United States Congress to create a Carbon Fee and Dividend Program. The intent of this resolution is to support and encourage an existing bipartisan effort within the Congress to produce legislation that would reduce the effects of climate change.

This resolution was based on a resolution that was passed by the City of Oberlin.

There are two basic concepts within this resolution.

- Carbon Fee - The basic premise of a carbon fee on fossil fuels production is that alternative fuels would ultimately become more attractive and competitive. This is not a new concept.
- Dividend – This is a fairly new concept that promotes distributing the funds raised by the carbon fee back to the taxpayers, thus putting more money into local economies.

Although the Environmental Commission sees this resolution as largely symbolic in nature and presents no immediate fiscal responsibilities to the City, it does reflect the City's efforts in progressing to a more sustainable community, as evidenced by recent efforts. Over the last several years, the City has incorporated stormwater "best management practices," implemented an aggregated energy program utilizing renewable energy (wind), and most recently has been developing a sustainable urban forestry policy.

The Environmental Commission approved the request to support this resolution and to advance it to the City Council for their review and consideration. It is hoped that the Council will see the benefit in this bipartisan effort and lend its support to reducing the effects of climate change.



Wright Gwyn, Chair
Oxford Environmental Commission

*mailed
1-17-19*

RESOLUTION NO. 7038

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXFORD, OHIO, CALLING ON THE U.S. CONGRESS TO INTRODUCE AND PASS CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION.

WHEREAS: the costs of climate change – including destabilizing weather patterns, rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and other serious impacts now pose a substantial threat to the health, prosperity, and security of Americans; and

WHEREAS: the costs are real, they are growing, and they are already burdening businesses, taxpayers, municipal budgets, and families; and

WHEREAS, our economy, infrastructure, public safety, and health are directly at risk;

and

WHEREAS, this resolution in itself does not have a fiscal impact on the City of Oxford;

and

WHEREAS, a Federal Carbon Fee and Dividend policy will:

1. Send a clear price signal to entrepreneurs and existing businesses to invest in a clean-energy economy.
2. Protect lower and middle-income households, as two-thirds of families, especially low and middle-income families, are expected to break even or receive more in dividends than they would pay in higher living expenses.
3. Create jobs and economic growth, as the dividend puts money back into local economies, and improves the health and productivity of citizens.
4. Discourage domestic businesses from relocating where they can emit more CO₂ and encourage other nations to adopt an equivalent price on carbon;

and

WHEREAS, there is increasing bipartisan support in Congress for Climate Solutions, as evidenced by the bipartisan House of Representative's Climate Solution Caucus, and The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2018 (H.R. 7173), which was introduced to the U.S. House for Representatives on November 27, 2018, calling for the implementation of a national carbon fee and dividend policy; and

WHEREAS, Carbon Fee and Dividend is a market-based, economically-viable solution to climate change, designed to attract bipartisan support in Congress.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OXFORD, OHIO, HEREBY RESOLVES THAT:

SECTION 1: We members of Oxford City Council urge the United States Congress to support Carbon Fee and Dividend as a key element in reducing the risks of climate change. Carbon Fee & Dividend will significantly reduce carbon emissions, create jobs, grow the economy, save lives, and protect households from higher energy prices.

SECTION 2: Carbon Fee and Dividend will place a steadily rising fee on fossil fuels at the source (at the well, mine, or port of entry), returning all of the revenue, minus administrative costs, to American households on a per-capita basis as a monthly dividend. To maintain the competitiveness of American businesses, a border adjustment will be made, assessing a fee or rebate on goods traded with countries without a comparable carbon price.

SECTION 3: That it is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning or relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 4: That a copy of this Resolution shall be delivered to Oxford's representatives in Congress, including our House representative, Senators, as well as to the Speaker of the U.S. House and the U. S. Senate Majority Leader.

SECTION 5: That this Resolution is hereby declared to be an essential measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety of the citizens of the City of Oxford, Ohio.

SECTION 6: This resolution shall take effect at the earliest date allowed by law.


MAYOR

ADOPTED: January 15, 2019

ATTEST:


CLERK OF OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

INTRODUCED BY: KATE ROUSMANIERE

PREPARED BY: LAW (STAFF)

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senate, 503 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
448 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Warren Davidson
1004 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
235 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510