

NO. 2018-533

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MEASURES TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE; URGING THE FEDERAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT AND EXPLORE LEGISLATION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the burning of fossil fuels creates greenhouse gas emissions which cause the continued warming of the atmosphere leading to an increase in heat waves, air pollution, and flooding incidents; and

WHEREAS, the global atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide (“CO₂”) has surpassed 400 parts per million (“ppm”), and scientific evidence indicates that a return to 350 ppm CO₂ or less is necessary to slow or stop the rise in global temperatures; and

WHEREAS, rising temperatures result in threats to the infrastructure and private property in the City of St. Petersburg (“St. Petersburg”), and the disruption of environmental, social, and economic systems due to climate change will increase the vulnerability of St. Petersburg’s residents; and

WHEREAS, St. Petersburg’s City Council exists to enhance the health, safety, and quality of life for all residents and has the responsibility to act swiftly and meaningfully on the issue of climate change; and

WHEREAS, while St. Petersburg’s City Council can support local measures to address climate change, it is the United States Congress which has the power to enact legislation that would provide nationwide measures to address climate change; and

WHEREAS, one such measure that Congress has the power to create is a carbon fee and dividend program which would place a carbon fee on all fossil fuels and other greenhouse gases entering the system and can be charged for goods entering the United States of America from countries without comparable carbon fees in order to ensure there is no domestic or international incentive to relocate production of goods or services; and


WHEREAS, a carbon fee and dividend program would be an efficient, transparent and enforceable mechanism to drive an effective and fair transition to a domestic-energy economy, stimulate investment in alternative-energy technologies, give all businesses powerful incentives to increase their energy-efficiency and reduce their carbon footprints, and provide dividends to American households to help ensure that families and individuals can afford the energy they need during the transition to a greenhouse gas-free economy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of St. Petersburg, Florida that City Council requests that the Federal Delegation strongly urge the United States Congress to take prompt action to address climate change by promoting and encouraging a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels, including the exploration of a Federal carbon fee and dividend program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that this Council hereby instructs the City Clerk to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the Federal Delegation.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted at a regular session of the City Council held on the 4th day of October, 2018.



Lisa Wheeler-Bowman, Chair-Councilmember
Presiding Officer of the City Council

ATTEST: 

Chan Srinivasa, City Clerk

