

RESOLUTION NO. 1417 (2018)

RE: REQUESTING CONGRESS ENACT A REVENUE-NEUTRAL FEE ON CARBON IN FOSSIL FUELS

WHEREAS, nearly all climate scientists agree that the Earth is warming rapidly, which is causing the climate to change, and that these negative effects on the Earth's natural systems and human civilization are already being seen and measured; and

WHEREAS, the major contributor to carbon dioxide (CO₂) increase is human activity, especially through the combustion of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the continued use of fossil fuels is being supported by a market failure whereby the costs of carbon emissions are not included in the price of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, changing climate has an impact on Central Wisconsin's natural resources and has been identified in the Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management's Hazard Mitigation Plan ("In the past 50 years, average statewide temperatures have increased by about 1.1°F. It is also likely that the state will see more extreme weather events." section 4.4); and

WHEREAS, 25 Wisconsin Counties have already incorporated climate change into their approved Hazard Mitigation Plans; and

WHEREAS, the urgent need to transition away from fossil fuels can best be accomplished with a market-based program, namely a revenue-neutral carbon fee on fossil fuel producers, with corresponding rebates or dividends in equal amounts to American households to offset increased energy costs; and

WHEREAS, using a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend to reduce carbon emissions would have the following benefits:

1. The carbon fee would provide an incentive for the development and use of energy efficiency and low carbon energy sources.
2. The transition to low-carbon energy sources would provide a range of additional benefits including enhanced public health, job creation and strengthening of the U.S. economy, increased energy security, and increased local energy development in rural areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Waupaca City Council strongly urges the United States Congress to pass legislation that levies an annually increasing revenue-neutral fee on the carbon in fossil fuels at the point of production or importation that would be sufficient to:

- a. Encourage individuals and businesses to produce and use less fossil fuel;
- b. Make the transition from fossil fuels less onerous to consumers and to the economy by returning to Americans on an equal basis all of the revenues gained from the fee;

- c. Reduce U.S. CO2 emissions to 10% of 1990 levels by 2050;
- d. Encourage similar actions by other nations trading with the United States, by suitable carbon-content-based fees for imports, and rebates for exports, to nations that have not taken such actions.

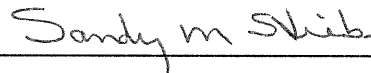
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Waupaca City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the City's Congressional delegation to include Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Tammy Baldwin and Representative Mike Gallagher.

Approved: September 18, 2018



Mayor Brian Smith

Attest:



Sandy M. Stiebs, Interim Clerk

Dated: September 18, 2018

Adopted: September 18, 2018