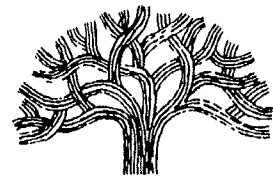


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CITY OF OAKLAND



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Date: June 1, 2017

To: City Council

From: Councilmember Kaplan

Re: Resolution Urging The United States Congress To Enact A Revenue-Neutral
Carbon Fee

Dear Colleagues on the City Council and Members of the Public,

Climate scientists overwhelmingly agree that an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is causing global warming, with the ten warmest years ever recorded all occurring since 1998.

Climate change caused by global warming-related greenhouse gas emissions is leading to large-scale problems including ocean acidification and rising sea levels; more frequent, extreme, and damaging weather events such as heat waves, storms, heavy rainfall and flooding, and droughts; more frequent and intense wildfires; disrupted ecosystems affecting biodiversity and food production; and an increase in heat-related deaths.

For these reasons, I am introducing a Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact a revenue-neutral fee on carbon-based fossil fuels, with the goal of reducing United States carbon dioxide emissions. We urge you to support this Resolution, which will be heard at the City Council Meeting on June 6, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rebecca Kaplan".

Councilmember At-Large Rebecca Kaplan

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OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

City Attorney

RESOLUTION No. _____ C.M.S.

Introduced by Councilmember Kaplan

**RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT A
REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON FEE**

WHEREAS, the average surface temperature on Earth has been increasing steadily, with the ten warmest years ever recorded all occurring since 1998; and

WHEREAS, climate scientists overwhelmingly agree that an increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere—carbon dioxide (CO₂) in particular—is causing the increase in global temperature; and

WHEREAS, humans burning carbon-based fossil fuels— coal, oil, and natural gas—is the primary cause of the substantial and continuing increase of CO₂ in the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, it is predicted that by 2100 the average global temperature will be 2°F to 11.5°F higher than now depending on the level of future greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, climate change caused by global warming-related greenhouse gas emissions including CO₂ already is leading to large-scale problems including ocean acidification and rising sea levels; more frequent, extreme, and damaging weather events such as heat waves, storms, heavy rainfall and flooding, and droughts; more frequent and intense wildfires; disrupted ecosystems affecting biodiversity and food production; and an increase in heat-related deaths; and

WHEREAS, we are approaching a dangerous threshold whereby, if it is crossed, humans will no longer be able to influence the course of future global warming, as tropical forests, peat bogs, permafrost and the oceans switch from absorbing carbon to releasing it; and

WHEREAS, the relentless increase in global atmospheric CO₂ concentration shows that broader, more powerful policies are needed to supplement local and regional efforts to reduce emissions; and

WHEREAS, burning fossil fuels also causes human health impacts by releasing pollutants that cause lung disease, respiratory illnesses, and cancer; and

WHEREAS, presently the environmental, health, and social costs of CO₂ emissions are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but rather these externalized costs are borne directly and indirectly by all Americans and global citizens; and

WHEREAS, to begin to correct this market failure, the United States Congress can enact a national carbon fee on fossil fuels, based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit when burned; and

WHEREAS, for efficient administration, a fee on fossil fuels can be charged once, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States; and

~~**WHEREAS**, a national carbon fee starting at a relatively low rate and increasing steadily over future years is a market-based solution that is designed to minimally disrupt the economy while sending a clear and predictable price signal to businesses to develop and use non-carbon-based energy resources; and~~

WHEREAS, a national carbon fee would incentivize manufacturers, businesses, and consumers throughout the economy to produce and use less fossil fuel, and would spur investment in and deployment of clean energy resources and energy efficient processes, without favoring any particular technology, and would thereby reduce CO₂ emissions to the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, job creation from development of clean energy and energy efficiency businesses would be expected to exceed job creation from further development of fossil fuel businesses; and

WHEREAS, according to Citizen's Climate Lobby, if 100% of carbon fee revenue is returned to households in equal shares, approximately two-thirds of Americans will break even or come out ahead, as their dividends match or exceed direct and indirect price increases due to the fee, protecting lower and middle income households; and

WHEREAS, border adjustments—carbon content-based tariffs on products imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing, and refunds to our exporters of carbon fees paid—should maintain the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in global markets; and

WHEREAS, a national carbon fee may be implemented quickly and efficiently, and respond to the urgency of the climate crisis, because the federal government already has in place mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service, needed to implement and enforce the fee, and already collects fees from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

WHEREAS, continued widespread use of fossil fuels and global climate change pose a present and growing risk to the health and welfare of Oakland residents and to its economy, and a U.S. national, revenue-neutral carbon fee will significantly mitigate those risks and promote health and prosperity in our City, region, and the world; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Oakland City Council urges the United States Congress to enact without delay a revenue-neutral fee on carbon-based fossil fuels.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, GUILLEN, KALB, KAPLAN,
AND PRESIDENT REID

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____
LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California