

RESOLUTION#19-2019
A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT
THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019

WHEREAS, climate change has been widely recognized by government, business and academic leaders as a worldwide threat to our economy, safety, public health, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the long-term consequences of climate change – including increased heat, prolonged drought, destructive wildfires, increased flooding, and reduced stream flow – are devastating to Moab’s tourism and recreation-based economy and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Moab has recognized the threats of climate change to Grand County and pledged to take a leadership role in promoting public awareness, education, and outreach about how the economy, environment, and societal well-being interrelate to each other within the confluence of climate change, to better prepare our citizens to mitigate the impacts of – and confront the negative impacts of – climate change in a more productive manner; and

WHEREAS, we are joined in taking action on climate change by a global coalition of local, state and national governments, businesses and individual leaders who recognize these actions’ capacity to protect and enhance the well-being of current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the October 2018 United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels warned that we are likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 at the current rate; and

WHEREAS, the IPCC reported that we have only 12 years left to make massive, unprecedented changes to global energy infrastructure to limit global warming to moderate levels; and

WHEREAS, the US Global Change Research Program’s November 2018 Fourth National Climate Assessment reported that impacts of climate change are already being felt in communities across the country, and that more frequent extreme weather and climate-related events and changes in average climate conditions are expected to continue to damage infrastructure, ecosystems, and social systems that provide essential benefits to communities; and

WHEREAS, conservative estimates by the world's climate scientists state that to achieve climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be brought to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are presently 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, the transition away from fossil fuels can be accelerated through a market-driven mechanism, such as a carbon fee and dividend, which encourages and empowers residents to reduce and replace their consumption of fossil fuels with renewable and other less carbon-intensive energy sources, conservation and heightened efficiency, thereby reducing harmful pollution and leaving a healthier, more stable, prosperous nation for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Moab City Council last year unanimously passed Resolution #32-2018 calling on the US Congress to pass legislation leveling a revenue-neutral fee on the carbon in fossil fuels at the point of production or importation sufficient to encourage individuals and corporations to produce and use less fossil fuels, and to make the transition less onerous on the economy and consumers by returning revenues generated from this fee to American households; and

WHEREAS, bi-partisan legislation titled the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (H.R. 763) is currently being proposed to assess a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) the fuel will emit when burned, and allocate the collected proceeds to all American households in equal shares in the form of a monthly dividend; and

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

WHEREAS, per H.R. 763, a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee starting at a relatively low rate of \$15 per ton of CO₂ equivalent emissions (and resulting in equal charges per ton of CO₂ equivalent emissions potential in each type of fuel or greenhouse gas) should be assessed to reduce current dangerously high CO₂ emissions. The yearly increase in carbon fees (including other greenhouse gases) shall be at least \$10/ton of CO₂ equivalent/year, with the Department of Energy determining whether an increase larger than \$10 is needed to achieve program goals; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 763 specifies that in order to protect low- and middle-income citizens from the economic impact of rising prices due to the carbon fee, equal monthly per-person dividend payments shall be made to all American households (½ payment per child under age of 19) each month from the fossil fuel fees collected. The total value of all monthly dividend payments shall represent 100% of the net carbon fees collected per month; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 763 is projected to, after 12 years, lead to a decrease in America's CO₂ emissions of 40 percent and an increase in national employment of 2.1 million jobs; 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 – can maintain the competitiveness of US businesses in global markets; and

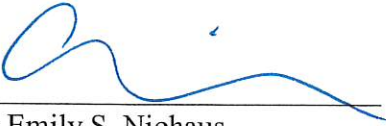
WHEREAS, a national carbon fee can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and respond to the urgency of the climate crisis because the federal government already has in place needed mechanisms such as the Internal Revenue Service to implement and enforce the fee, and already collects fees from fossil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

WHEREAS, a revenue-neutral carbon fee would make the US a leader in mitigating climate change and in 21st-century clean energy technologies, and would provide other countries incentive to enact similar carbon fees, reducing global CO₂ emissions without the need for complex international agreements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Moab urges the United States Congress to enact without delay the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763, and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Manager or City Clerk, no later than 30 days after passage of this Resolution, shall transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and each US Senator and Representative from the State of Utah in the Congress of the United States, and to nearby city and county governments urging that they pass similar resolutions.

The foregoing resolution is approved and adopted by action of the Moab City Council, as set forth below.



Mayor Emily S. Niehaus

3/26/19
Date

Attest:


Sommar Johnson, Recorder

3.26.19
Date