

RESOLUTION NO. 2019 - 2572

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PASS THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT (H.R. 763) TO LEVY AN ANNUALLY INCREASING REVENUE-NEUTRAL FEE ON THE CARBON IN FOSSIL FUELS AT THE POINT OF PRODUCTION OR IMPORTATION AND RETURN A DIVIDEND TO ALL AMERICANS; PROVIDING FOR TRANSMITTAL OF RESOLUTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, climate scientists worldwide agree that Earth is warming rapidly to a degree that is perilous to human civilization, numerous species and to the global ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, the primary cause of the rapid warming is human activity, especially through the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gasses such as carbon dioxide (CO₂); and

WHEREAS, the United States Global Change Research Program, anticipates that inaction on reducing global emissions of CO₂ will lead to increased heat, drought, insect outbreaks, flooding and wildfires, coupled with declining water supplies, reduced agricultural yields and harm to public health and welfare throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Surfside ("Town") is cognizant of the fact that climate change is considered one of the major causes of sea level rise within the State of Florida, with coastal communities such as the Town being severely impacted; and

WHEREAS, local sea level rise in South Florida, including the Town, exceeds global sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, the likely consequences of unmitigated climate change on South Florida will pose serious threats to the region's economy, ecology and livability through sea level rise, the loss of our freshwater supply, compromised sanitation systems, stronger storms, rising insurance rates, etc.; and

WHEREAS, every additional release of greenhouse gas increases the severity of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Town Commission has a record of acknowledging the reality of climate change, the projected effects on the community, and the Town's ability and responsibility to reduce its contribution to the causes of climate change, as evidenced by the Town's prior legislative and administrative actions and programs; and

WHEREAS, coastal areas of the United States are experiencing indirect harm based on economic factors relating to rising flood insurance costs in low-lying areas; and

WHEREAS, national and international policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must be implemented rapidly to avoid catastrophic damage to the planet's ecosystems upon which all life depends; and

WHEREAS, local action is necessary yet insufficient to avoid catastrophic climate change; and

WHEREAS, a policy known as the "**carbon fee and dividend**" is a revenue neutral, economically efficient, market-based mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the economy while providing a direct economic benefit to the people of the United States; and

WHEREAS, a Carbon Fee and Dividend rule would encourage consumers and the market to transition to clean energy sources and away from carbon-based energy and fuels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COMMISSION OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE, FLORIDA, THAT:

Section 1. Recognition of Fossil Fuel Effect on Climate Change; Adoption of Fee on Carbon Production. The Town Commission hereby recognizes that the pollution caused by burning fossil fuels is a primary cause of climate change, and that an effective and efficient measure to address this problem is the enactment of a revenue-neutral fee on carbon production at its source, with the fees being returned to Americans as a dividend.

Section 2. Urging the US Congress to Pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon

Dividend Act. The Town Commission strongly urges the United States Congress to pass the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, legislation that levies an annually increasing revenue-neutral fee on the carbon in fossil fuels at the point of production or importation, with the fees returned to Americans as a dividend.

Section 3. Transmittal of Resolution. The Town Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this resolution to the members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means, Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Foreign Affairs, all members of the U.S. House of Representatives representing Florida districts and to U.S. Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott, .

Section 4. Severability. If any section, clause, sentence, or phrase of this resolution is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this resolution.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.


PASSED AND ADOPTED this 12th day of March 2019.

Motion By: Commissioner Karuikin

Second By: Commissioner Cohen

FINAL VOTE ON ADOPTION

Commissioner Barry Cohen	<u>yes</u>
Commissioner Michael Karuikin	<u>yes</u>
Commissioner Tina Paul	<u>yes</u>
Vice Mayor Daniel Gielchinsky	<u>yes</u>
Mayor Daniel Dietch	<u>yes</u>



Daniel Dietch, Mayor

Attest:



Sandra Novoa, MMC
Town Clerk

Approved as to Form and Legal Sufficiency:



Weiss Serota Helfman Cole & Bierman, P.L.
Town Attorney