

Resolve 9-20/21
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**RESOLUTION ENDORSING A REVENUE-NEUTRAL
CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND POLICY**

WHEREAS, the City Council of Portland, Maine, is committed to fighting climate change and to protecting city residents from the effects of climate change and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, climate change poses serious threats to Portland’s economy, public health, and environment; and

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and the connection between human activity, especially the combustion of “fossil fuels,” including coal, oil and natural gas, that creates greenhouse gases and warming of the planet; and

WHEREAS, as a result of climate change, the Northeast is experiencing warming temperatures, heavier downpours, and increased rainfall; and

WHEREAS, carbon pollution in our atmosphere increases the rates of asthma and premature deaths in our region; and

WHEREAS, sea level rise, increasingly heavy downpours, and storm surges threaten the city’s coastal assets, and annual high tides are already flooding Portland’s low-lying streets and wharves; and

WHEREAS, water temperatures in Casco Bay are rising faster than in almost any other part of any ocean on the planet driving food fish and lobsters northward and into deeper waters; and

WHEREAS, increasing unpredictability of temperatures and frost is damaging our region’s agriculture, damaging livelihoods and the regional economy, and threatening our food supply; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the World Bank and over [3,500 U.S. economists](#) all agree that a steadily rising price on carbon fuels is the most effective first policy to switch entire economies to alternative forms of energy generation; and

WHEREAS, economists and policy analysts agree that such a carbon price should be imposed at the source (coal mine, oil or gas well, or port of entry), with all net revenues returned to households equitably, and with a border adjustment to encourage worldwide adoption of such a policy; and

WHEREAS, the City of Portland has adopted the One Climate Future Plan with the City of South Portland, which contains as a critical goal (on page 116: Goal BE 5.7 Statewide Carbon Pricing ACTION) to “Continue to advocate for carbon pricing at national, regional, and statewide scales”; and

WHEREAS, Congress has the responsibility and is preparing to act swiftly and effectively on the issue of climate change; and

WHEREAS, legislation addressing climate change should not economically burden Portland or its residents; and

WHEREAS, a Carbon Fee and Dividend, as incorporated in bills similar to the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (EICDA, HR 763 in the 116th Congress just ended) would greatly help fight climate change, would help protect Portland and its residents from the effects of climate change and would be a net economic boost to Portland and our region:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council and Mayor call on the United States Congress to address climate change by adopting as one important measure among others a revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend as a sound, effective policy.