

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADOPT NATIONAL CARBON FEE
AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION.

1 WHEREAS, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres
2 recently said, "Greenhouse gas emissions keep growing, global
3 temperatures keep rising, and our planet is fast approaching
4 tipping points that will make climate chaos irreversible. We
5 are on a highway to climate hell with our foot on the
6 accelerator"; and
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8 WHEREAS, carbon dioxide is a major greenhouse gas and its
9 concentration in the atmosphere has been increasing at
10 progressively rapid rate for more than sixty years, as shown by
11 measurements taken at observatories on Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea,
12 and now registers at more than four hundred twenty parts per
13 million, which is fifty percent higher than before the
14 Industrial Revolution; and
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16 WHEREAS, many climate change impacts are anticipated for
17 the Hawaiian Islands, including increases in ocean and air
18 temperatures, sea level rise, droughts, severe weather patterns,
19 ocean acidification, and more frequent and severe wildfires; and
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21 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
22 stated in the most recent report of its mitigation working group
23 that any pathway to limit warming to two degrees Celsius would
24 have to "involve rapid and deep and in most cases immediate
25 greenhouse gas emissions reductions in all sectors"; and
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27 WHEREAS, the United States needs powerful new policies to
28 meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals established in
29 the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement; and
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31 WHEREAS, imposing a tax on the burning of fossil fuels and
32 returning the revenues to households to spend as they see fit, a
33 carbon-pricing policy commonly known as carbon fee and dividend,
34 is an effective and equitable way to substantially reduce
35 greenhouse gas emissions; and
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1 WHEREAS, carbon fee and dividend is supported by more than
2 thirty-six hundred economists, including twenty-eight Nobel
3 Laureates and fifteen former chairs of the Council of Economic
4 Advisers, who signed a statement that begins, "A carbon tax
5 offers the most cost-effective lever to reduce carbon emissions
6 at the scale and speed that is necessary" and the statement
7 continues, "to maximize the fairness and political viability of
8 a rising tax, all the revenue should be returned directly to
9 American citizens through equal lump-sum rebates"; and

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11 WHEREAS, a national carbon fee and dividend program can
12 include border adjustments, such as carbon-content-based tariffs
13 on products imported from countries without comparable carbon
14 pricing and refunds to our exporters of carbon taxes paid, to
15 maintain the competitiveness of United States businesses in
16 global markets; and

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18 WHEREAS, major trading partners of the United States like
19 Canada and the European Union have adopted meaningful carbon
20 taxes and are now considering carbon border adjustments to level
21 the playing field by ensuring that imports are subject to the
22 same carbon pricing as local goods; and

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24 WHEREAS, a national carbon fee and dividend program can be
25 implemented quickly and efficiently, and respond to the urgency
26 of the climate crises, because the federal government already
27 has in place mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service,
28 needed to implement and enforce the tax, and already collects
29 taxes from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

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31 WHEREAS, a national carbon fee and dividend program would
32 make the United States a leader in mitigating climate change and
33 the advancing of clean energy technologies in the 21st century,
34 and would incentivize other countries to enact similar carbon
35 pricing policies, thereby reducing global greenhouse gas
36 emissions without the need for complex international agreements;
37 now, therefore,

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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
40 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
41 that the United States Congress is urged to pass national carbon
42 fee and dividend legislation; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President and Vice-President of the United States, Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Majority Leader of the United States Senate, and members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

OFFERED BY:



