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2 2018 RES-294
3 REQUESTING CONGRESS ENACT A REVENUE-NEUTRAL FEE
ON CARBON IN FOSSIL FUELS

4 Nearly all climate scientists agree that the Earth is warming rapidly, which is causing the
5 climate to change, and that these negative effects on the Earth's natural systems and human
6 civilization are already being seen and measured. The major contributor to carbon dioxide
7 (CO₂) increase is human activity, especially through the combustion of fossil fuels. The
8 continued use of fossil fuels is being supported by a market failure whereby the costs of
9 carbon emissions are not included in the price of fossil fuels.

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11 Changing climate has an impact on Dane County's natural resources and has been identified
12 in the Wisconsin Division of Emergency Management's Hazard Mitigation Plan ("In the past
13 50 years, average statewide temperatures have increased by about 1.1°F. It is also likely that
14 the state will see more extreme weather events." section 4.4). Twenty-five Wisconsin
15 Counties have already incorporated climate change into their approved Hazard Mitigation
16 Plans.

17
18 The urgent need to transition away from fossil fuels can best be accomplished with a market-
19 based program, namely a revenue-neutral carbon fee on fossil fuel producers, with
20 corresponding rebates or dividends in equal amounts to American households to offset
21 increased energy costs.

22
23 Using a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend to reduce carbon emissions would have the
24 following benefits:

- 25 1. The carbon fee would provide an incentive for the development and use of energy
26 efficiency and low carbon energy sources.
27 2. The transition to low-carbon energy sources would provide a range of
28 additional benefits including enhanced public health, job creation and
29 strengthening of the U.S. economy, increased energy security, and increased
30 local energy development in rural areas.

31
32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Board of Supervisors
33 strongly urges the United States Congress to pass legislation that levies an annually
34 increasing revenue-neutral fee on the carbon in fossil fuels at the point of production or
35 importation that would be sufficient to:

- 36 a. Encourage individuals and businesses to produce and use less fossil fuel;
37 b. Make the transition from fossil fuels less onerous to consumers and to the
38 economy by returning to Americans on an equal basis all of the revenues
39 gained from the fee;
40 c. Reduce U.S. CO₂ emissions to 10% of 1990 levels by 2050;
41 d. Encourage similar actions by other nations trading with the United States, by
42 suitable carbon-content-based fees for imports, and rebates for exports, to nations
43 that have not taken such actions.

44 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be provided to the Dane County
45 Congressional delegation to include Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Tammy Baldwin and
46 Representative Mark Pocan.