

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Austin strives to enhance the health, safety, and quality of life for all residents; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Harvey proved to be an unprecedented climate event for our region, affecting public health and safety, the economy, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin faces the effects of changing climate as evidenced by severe flooding and extended droughts and high temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 National Climate Assessment found that continued warming of the atmosphere will cause the region to experience an increase in heat waves, air pollution, drought, and flooding, resulting in threats to our communities, public infrastructure, the agriculture industry, and military preparedness; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an international body established in 1988 to assess the science related to climate change, has found that human activities are the primary source of increased atmospheric concentrations of global warming gases; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has passed a series of climate-related resolutions, including, Resolution No. 20070215-023, which established the framework for the Climate Protection Plan; Resolution No. 20140410-024, which established a city-wide goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; Resolution No. 20140828-157, which set the vision for reducing CO2 emissions from all city-controlled generation resources; and Resolution No. 20150604-048, which reaffirmed the 2050 goal with the adoption of the 2015 Austin Community Climate Plan; and

WHEREAS, a majority of U.S. residents have shown support for the Global Paris Climate Accord to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and control rising global temperatures; and

WHEREAS, the external environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels, and;

WHEREAS, Congress can correct this market failure by enacting a proposal introduced by the Citizens Climate Lobby, which calls for a national revenue-neutral carbon fee on fossil fuels and other greenhouse gases at the point where they first enter the economy; and

WHEREAS, a steadily increasing revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend would be minimally disruptive to the economy while sending clear and predictable price signals to individuals and businesses purchasing and using carbon-based energy resources; and

WHEREAS, a national carbon fee and dividend will make the U.S. a leader in mitigating climate change through a market-based mechanism, spurring innovation; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council urges the United States Congress to enact an incremental carbon fee and dividend, with tax proceeds distributed to the American people on a monthly basis, thus benefiting working families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council also urges Congress to protect the competitiveness of American businesses by employing a carbon content based border adjustment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Council shall send a cover letter with copies of this resolution to the Central Texas delegation in the U.S. Congress.

ADOPTED: _____, 2018 ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk