

2 **RESOLUTION: Resolution Urging the United States Congress to Enact the Energy**
3 **Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.**

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6 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

7 **WHEREAS**, an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a special report on the impacts of global
8 warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in October 2018, warning that global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C
9 between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, the United Nations climate science body said in a monumental climate report that we have only
12 until 2030 to make massive unprecedented changes to global energy infrastructures to limit global warming to
13 moderate levels; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, the United States government released its Fourth Annual Climate Assessment in November
16 2018, reporting that the impacts of climate change are already being felt in communities across the county, and that
17 more frequent and intense extreme weather and climate- related events, as well as changes in average climate
18 conditions, are expected to continue to damage infrastructure, ecosystems, and social systems that provide essential
19 benefits to communities; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, conservation estimates by the world's climate scientists state that, to achieve climate
22 stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be brought to 90-
23 95% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in prices paid
26 for fossil fuels but rather these externalized costs are borne directly and indirectly by all Americans and global
27 citizens; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, to begin to correct this market failure, Congress can enact HR763 the Energy Innovation and
30 Carbon Dividend Act to assess a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit
31 when burned and allocate the collected proceeds to all households in the United States in equal per-capita shares in
32 the form of a monthly dividend; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, for efficient administration, the fossil fuels fee can be applied once, as far upstream in the
35 economy as practical, or at the port of entry in the United States; and

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37 **WHEREAS**, as stated in HR763 the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, a national, revenue-neutral
38 carbon fee starting at a rate of \$15 per ton of CO₂ equivalent emissions and resulting in equal charges per ton of CO₂
39 equivalent emissions in each type of fuel or greenhouse gas, should be assessed to begin to lower dangerously high
40 CO₂ emissions. The yearly increase in carbon fees, including other greenhouse gases, shall be at least \$10 per ton

41 of CO₂ equivalent each year, with the provision that the annual increase will be \$15 per ton of Co₂ equivalent if the
42 statutory goals are not met; and

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44 **WHEREAS**, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act specifies that, in order to protect low- and
45 middle-income citizens from the economic impact of rising prices due to carbon fees, equal monthly per-person
46 dividend payments shall be made to all American households (one-half payment per child under 19 years old) each
47 month from the fossil fuel fees collected. The total value of all monthly dividend payments shall represent 100% of
48 the net carbon fees collected per month; and

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50 **WHEREAS**, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act encourages market-driven innovation of clean
51 energy technologies and market efficiencies which will reduce harmful pollution and leave a healthier, more stable,
52 and more prosperous nation for future generations; and

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54 **WHEREAS**, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act will, after 12 years, lead to a decrease in
55 America's CO₂ emissions by 40 percent and preserve national employment; and

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57 **WHEREAS**, board adjustments- carbon content-based levies on products imported from countries without
58 comparable carbon pricing and refunds to our exporters of carbon fees paid- can maintain the competitiveness of
59 U.S. business in global markets; and

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61 **WHEREAS**, a national carbon fee can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and will respond to the
62 urgency of the climate crisis because the federal government already has in place mechanisms needed to implement
63 and enforce the fee, and already collects fees from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

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65 **WHEREAS**, a national revenue-neutral carbon fee would make the United States a leader in mitigation
66 climate changes and in the clean energy technologies of the 21st century and would provide incentives to other
67 countries to enact similar carbon fees, reducing global CO₂ emissions without the need for complex international
68 agreements.

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70 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the of Winnebago County Board of Supervisors, urges the
71 United States Congress to enact without delay HR763 the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act; and

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73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Winnebago County Supervisors that it hereby directs the Winnebago
74 County Clerk to forward a copy of this Resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the
75 Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each U.S Senator and
76 Representative from the State of Wisconsin in the Congress of the United State, and to nearby city and county
77 government urging that they pass similar resolutions.

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Respectfully submitted by:
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Committee Vote: **14-0 with 1 Abstain**

Vote Required for Passage: **Three- fourth of Members Present.**

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Jonathan D. Doemel
Winnebago County Executive