

1 [Supporting United States House Resolution No. 763 (Deutch) - The Energy and Carbon
2 Dividend Act of 2019]

3 **Resolution supporting United States House Resolution No. 763, authored by United**
4 **States Representative Theodore E. Deutch, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend**
5 **Act of 2019, to encourage market-driven innovation of clean energy technologies and**
6 **market efficiencies which will reduce harmful pollution and leave a healthier, more**
7 **stable, and more prosperous nation for future generations.**

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

13 WHEREAS, The United Nations climate science body said in a monumental climate
14 report that we have only 12 years left to make massive and unprecedented changes to global
15 energy infrastructure to limit global warming to moderate levels; and

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

22 WHEREAS, Conservative estimates by the world's climate scientists state that to
23 achieve climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emissions of greenhouse
24 gases (GHGs) must be brought to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

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

4 WHEREAS, To begin to correct this market failure, Congress can enact the Energy
5 Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act to assess a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on
6 the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit when burned and allocate the collected proceeds to all
7 U.S. Households in equal shares in the form of a monthly dividend; and

8 WHEREAS, For efficient administration, the fossil fuels fee can be applied once, as far
9 upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, As stated in the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019,
11 House Resolution No. 763 (H.R. 763), a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee starting at a
12 relatively low rate of \$15 per ton of CO₂ equivalent emissions and resulting in equal charges
13 per ton of CO₂ equivalent emissions potential in each type of fuel or greenhouse gas should
14 be assessed to begin to lower what are now dangerously high CO₂ emissions. The yearly
15 increase in carbon fees including other greenhouse gases, shall be at least \$10 per ton of
16 CO₂ equivalent each year, with the Department of Energy determining whether an increase
17 larger than \$10 per ton per year is needed to achieve program goals; and

18 WHEREAS, The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763,
19 specifies that, in order to protect low and middle income citizens from the economic impact of
20 rising prices due to the carbon fee, equal monthly per-person dividend payments shall be
21 made to all American households (½ payment per child under 19 years old) each month from
22 the fossil fuel fees collected. The total value of all monthly dividend payments shall represent
23 100% of the net carbon fees collected per month; and

24 WHEREAS, The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H.R. 763,
25 encourages market-driven innovation of clean energy technologies and market efficiencies

1 which will reduce harmful pollution and leave a healthier, more stable, and more prosperous
2 nation for future generations; and

3 WHEREAS, Border adjustments - carbon content-based tariffs on products imported
4 from countries without comparable carbon pricing, and refunds to our exporters of carbon fees
5 paid - can maintain the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in global markets; and

6 WHEREAS, A national carbon fee can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and will
7 respond to the urgency of the climate crisis because the federal government already has in
8 place mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service, needed to implement and enforce
9 the fee, and already collects fees from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

10 WHEREAS, A national revenue-neutral carbon fee would make the United States a
11 leader in mitigating climate change and in the clean energy technologies of the 21st century
12 and would provide incentive to other countries to enact similar carbon fees, reducing global
13 CO2 emissions without the need for complex international agreements; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the United States
15 Congress to enact without delay the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019,
16 H.R. 763; and, be it

17 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, no later than 30
18 days after passage of this Resolution, shall transmit copies of this resolution to the President
19 and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to
20 the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the U.S. Senators for the State of California, and to
21 nearby city and county governments, including the Santa Rosa City Council, Sebastopol City
22 Council, Rohnert Park City Council, Cotati City Council, Healdsburg City Council, San Jose
23 City Council, City Council of Daly City, and San Rafael City Council, urging that they pass
24 similar resolutions.