

Resolution 2019 - 56

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING H.R. 763 THE ENERGY
INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT**

WHEREAS, increases in global average temperatures, the number and intensity of extreme weather events, sea level rise, and the melting of glacial and Arctic ice, indicate that the global climate is changing; and

WHEREAS, Sawyer County has experienced two 500-year extreme rain events in the past three years, which have caused extensive damage to Sawyer County roads, bridges, culverts, and other infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, studies by the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts project that if climate change continues unchecked, Sawyer County will experience increasingly warmer temperatures, especially during the winter months, and increasing amounts of precipitation and extreme rain events; and

WHEREAS, such changes are likely to have substantial adverse impacts on Sawyer County's highways and roads and other critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, such changes may also have adverse effects on Sawyer County's forests and timber industry by decreasing suitable habitat for such commercially important species as paper birch and quaking aspen, increasing the risk of wildfires, and increasing stress from forest pests, diseases, and non-native species; and

WHEREAS, such changes may also have adverse impacts on Sawyer County agriculture by increasing erosion from extreme rain events, hampering access to fields at critical times, and causing alterations in late-winter freeze/thaw cycles; and

WHEREAS, such changes may also have adverse impacts on Sawyer County's winter tourism economy by decreasing the duration of winter snow cover and rendering winter conditions less predictable; and

WHEREAS, Sawyer County's Comprehensive Plan provides that the County will "continue to support the main economic drivers of the county including manufacturing, forestry, tourism, agriculture, and health services"; and "maintain a high-quality natural resource base and preserve our air, land, and water at the highest level for future generations;" and "be a leader in actively promoting renewable resources of energy and efficiency.;" and

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49 **WHEREAS**, recent reports by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
50 Change and the US government indicate that to avoid the worst potential
51 impacts of climate change, urgent action is needed to reduce carbon
52 emissions; and

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54 **WHEREAS**, in order to reduce carbon emissions most effectively and efficiently,
55 leading economists (including four past chairs of the Federal Reserve
56 Board, 27 Nobel Laureates, and 15 past chairs of the Council of Economic
57 Advisors) recommend a gradually increasing carbon tax on fossil fuels, with
58 the proceeds thereof returned to American households as dividends, and
59 with a border adjustment system to protect the competitiveness of American
60 firms both nationally and internationally; and

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62 **WHEREAS**, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, introduced in the
63 current Congress as H.R. 763, meets all of those criteria and has bipartisan
64 support; and

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66 **WHEREAS**, competent studies have projected that if such legislation is enacted, it
67 will result in a substantial reduction in carbon emissions as well as increases
68 in GDP and employment; and that the dividends received by most low and
69 moderate-income households will be more than enough to offset price
70 increases due to the carbon fee;

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72 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
73 urges the United States Congress to pass H.R. 763 without delay; and

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75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Sawyer County Clerk is directed to send
76 copies of this resolution to Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Tammy Baldwin,
77 Representative Sean Duffy, Governor Tony Evers, State Senator Janet
78 Bewley, and State Representative Beth Meyers.

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85 This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors this 19th day
86 of December, 2019.

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Tweed Shuman, Sawyer County Board of Supervisors Chair