

1 RESOLUTION R-2021-

2 A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO  
3 TO ENDORSE THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT  
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5 WHEREAS, the City of Longmont adopted the Climate Action Recommendations Report  
6 in 2020 that builds on already established goals within the Sustainability Plan, including the  
7 transition to 100% renewable energy by 2030 in a just and equitable way, reducing Longmont's  
8 greenhouse gas emissions, expanding efficiency programs to reduce utility bills and conserve  
9 water and energy, and beneficial electrification of buildings and vehicles; and

10 WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2021 (EICDA), H.R.  
11 2307, is consistent with and will accelerate the implementation of the City of Longmont's  
12 Sustainability and Climate Action Plans; and

13 WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued the Sixth Assessment  
14 Report in August of 2021, finding that the planet is likely to warm past 1.5°C sometime in the  
15 early 2030's; and

16 WHEREAS, our region will likely face hotter and drier conditions, becoming more severe  
17 with greater warming, impacting public health, infrastructure and the economy; and

18 WHEREAS, the United Nations climate science body said in a monumental climate report  
19 that we have until 2030 to make massive and unprecedented changes to global energy  
20 infrastructure to limit global warming to moderate levels; and

21 WHEREAS, the United States government released its Fourth National Climate  
22 Assessment in November 2018 reporting that the impacts of climate change are already being felt  
23 in communities across the country, and that more frequent and intense extreme weather and

1 climate-related events, as well as changes in average climate conditions, are expected to continue  
2 to damage infrastructure, ecosystems, and social systems that provide essential benefits to  
3 communities; and

4 WHEREAS, conservative estimates by the world's climate scientists state that to achieve  
5 climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases must  
6 be brought to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

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

10 WHEREAS, to begin to correct this market failure, Congress can enact the EICDA to  
11 assess a national carbon fee on fossil fuels based on the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> the fuel will emit when  
12 burned and allocate the collected proceeds to all U.S. households in equal shares in the form of a  
13 monthly dividend; and

14 WHEREAS, as stated in the EICDA, for efficient administration, the fossil fuels fee can  
15 be applied once, as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United  
16 States; and

17 WHEREAS, as stated in the EICDA, a national, revenue-neutral carbon fee starting at a  
18 relatively low rate of \$15 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions and resulting in equal charges per  
19 ton of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent emissions potential in each type of fuel or greenhouse gas should be  
20 assessed to begin to lower what are now dangerously high CO<sub>2</sub> emissions; and

21 WHEREAS, as stated in the EICDA, the yearly increase in carbon fees including other  
22 greenhouse gases, should be at least \$10 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent each year, with the Department

1 of Energy determining whether an increase larger than \$10 per ton per year is needed to achieve  
2 program goals; and

3 WHEREAS, as stated in the EICDA, in order to protect low- and middle-income residents  
4 from the economic impact of rising prices due to the carbon fee, equal monthly per-person dividend  
5 payments should be made to all American households (½ payment per child under 19 years old)  
6 each month from the fossil fuel fees collected, with the total value of all monthly dividend  
7 payments representing 100% of the net carbon fees collected per month; and

8 WHEREAS, the EICDA encourages market-driven innovation of clean energy  
9 technologies and market efficiencies that will reduce harmful pollution and leave a healthier, more  
10 stable, and more prosperous nation for future generations; and

11 WHEREAS, the EICDA is expected to lead to a decrease in America’s CO2 emissions of  
12 30% in 5 years, and is the single most powerful tool we have to get us to net zero by 2050; and

13 WHEREAS, border adjustments—tariffs based on the carbon content of products imported  
14 from countries without comparable carbon pricing and refunds to our exporters of carbon fees  
15 paid—can maintain the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in global markets; and

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

20 WHEREAS, a national revenue-neutral carbon fee would make the United States a leader  
21 in mitigating climate change and in the clean energy technologies of the 21st century and would  
22 provide incentive to other countries to enact similar carbon fees, reducing global CO2 emissions  
23 without the need for complex international agreements.

1           NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONGMONT, COLORADO,  
2 RESOLVES:

3 Section 1

4           That the City of Longmont, Colorado urges the United States Congress to enact without  
5 delay a carbon fee and dividend policy such as the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act,  
6 (H.R. 2307).

7 Section 2

8           No later than 30 days after passage of this Resolution the City Manager or City Clerk shall  
9 transmit copies of this Resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the  
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, each U.S. Senator and  
11 Representative from the State of Colorado in the Congress of the United States, and to nearby city  
12 and county governments urging that they pass similar resolutions.

13 Section 3

14           The Council repeals all resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution,  
15 but only to the extent of such inconsistency.

16           Passed and adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

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20 \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

1 ATTEST:

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4 \_\_\_\_\_  
5 CITY CLERK

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8 APPROVED AS TO FORM

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11 \_\_\_\_\_  
12 ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY

\_\_\_\_\_ DATE

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15 \_\_\_\_\_  
16 PROOFREAD

\_\_\_\_\_ DATE

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19 APPROVED AS TO FORM AND SUBSTANCE:

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22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT

\_\_\_\_\_ DATE

24  
25 CA File: 21-001353