

RESOLUTION NO. 620

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A NATIONAL REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON TAX TO CURB CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, the City of Eureka Springs, Arkansas, is a signatory to the U. S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and in 2012, unanimously adopted a Climate Action Plan.

WHEREAS, nearly all scientific experts agree on the basics of climate change. The earth is warming. It is mostly human caused. It is already harming us and other species. If we continue burning fossil fuels at recent rates, it poses far more dangerous and significant risks for our children and grandchildren. We are approaching a dangerous threshold whereby, if it is crossed, the earth will simply take the controls out of our hands, and tropical forests, peat bogs, permafrost and the oceans will switch from absorbing carbon to releasing it.

WHEREAS, we have affordable, practical solutions that do not require great sacrifice. We can adopt a balanced approach. We can cut energy demand with efficiency innovations and some additional conservation. And we can scale up energy supplies with existing alternative technologies that do not burn carbon.

WHEREAS, we can avoid the worst impacts of global warming only if we put a federal, revenue-neutral carbon tax on fossil fuels that reflects their true costs to society.

WHEREAS, there is an emerging consensus among economists that the smartest approach is to enact a consumer friendly carbon tax with the following provisions:

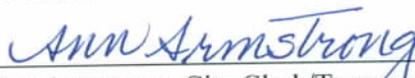
- Goal: Reduce emissions to 80 % below 2005 levels by 2050.
- Start small -- Increase predictably. Increase the tax slowly but steadily until we hit our emissions goal. Businesses need predictable energy prices. The economy needs a smooth transition.
- Easy to administer at home and to emulate abroad. The tax is collected only once -- at the first point of sale -- the mine, wellhead or border crossing.
- Revenue neutral. All the revenue is returned to citizens to mitigate the economic impact. Government keeps none of the funds.
- Protects the vulnerable. For lower-income Americans, the refunds match or exceed increased energy costs.
- Protects business from unfair domestic and international competition using border taxes and credits.
- Does not play favorites. Lets markets and localities pick the winning technologies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS, THAT

Section 1. The City of Eureka Springs, Arkansas, calls on the U. S. Congress to enact this revenue-neutral carbon tax.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS, THIS 29th DAY OF MAY, 2013.

ATTEST:


Ann Armstrong, City Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED:


Morris Pate, Mayor

All voted "Aye" – Joyce Zeller, Terry McClung, Dee Purkeypile, James DeVito, Mickey Schneider, and David Mitchell