

RESOLUTION NO. 190420

Expressing support for a national revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend system to fulfill our collective responsibility under the Paris Agreement; urging Congress to pass legislation enacting such system; and directing the City Clerk to transmit copies of this ordinance.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Kansas City exists to enhance the health, safety, and quality of life for all those who live, work and play in our community, as well as our children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, climate scientists worldwide are in near unanimous agreement that the human burning of fossil fuels is warming our Earth to a degree that is perilous to civilization; and

WHEREAS, the global atmospheric concentration of CO₂ is now over 400 ppm, the highest level in the last 800,000 years, Earth's climate has warmed 1 degree Centigrade (1.7 degrees F), with a wide range of adverse impacts on ecological systems and humanity, and these adverse effects will directly and indirectly harm the citizens of Kansas City, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, in June, 2017, Mayor Sly James joined with 381 U.S. Mayors in signing a letter expressing intent to uphold the Paris Agreement, seek to develop relationships with international partners, and pledging greater efforts by cities to reduce climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Kansas City, Missouri passed a resolution in 2017 affirming the Paris Climate Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the World Bank states carbon pricing is one of the most effective mechanisms to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the scale and pace the science demands, and reports that 90 countries are using some sort of carbon pricing to fulfill their Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, all levels of government have the responsibility to act swiftly and meaningfully to the threats posed by global warming; and

WHEREAS, a carbon fee and dividend system will assist in the empowerment of Kansas City and its citizens, to embrace the transition to a 21st Century clean energy economy; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

Section 1. That the Mayor and Council express their support for a national revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend system to fulfill our collective responsibility under the Paris Agreement

RESOLUTION NO. 190420

Section 2. That the Mayor and Council strongly urge the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that deals effectively with our climate crisis, specifically a national revenue-neutral fee and dividend system to rapidly reduce U.S. carbon emissions, and that the legislation be written in such a manner as to ensure that all fees collected are returned directly to families and households and that our most economically vulnerable citizens will not be financially harmed.

Section 3. The City Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to our Congressional Delegation, the President of the United States, and other local, state, and national leaders.
