

**TOWNSHIP OF HOPEWELL
MERCER COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

R E S O L U T I O N #21-184

**RESOLUTION URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO ADDRESS GLOBAL
WARMING BY ENACTING THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON
DIVIDEND ACT OF 2021**

WHEREAS, overwhelming scientific evidence exists that human releases of greenhouse gases, especially CO₂ from the burning of fossil fuels, are warming the Earth's atmosphere and oceans and causing sea-level rise, loss of glaciers and sea ice, and alterations to weather systems; and

WHEREAS, Earth's global surface temperature in 2020 tied with 2016 as the warmest year on record, according to independent analyses by NASA, the U.K. Met Office, and other institutions. Average global temperature in 2020 was 1.25 degrees C warmer than in pre-industrial times, and the past six years are the six warmest years in the modern record; and

WHEREAS, the global atmospheric concentration of CO₂ has now surpassed 415 parts per million; and conservative scientific models estimate that to achieve climate stabilization and avoid dangerous climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be brought to at least 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, as a coastal state, New Jersey is especially vulnerable to sea level rise and resultant flooding of coastal areas, and is also exposed to threats to infrastructure and to agriculture and to increased risk of droughts, inland floods, heat stress episodes, wildfires, and loss of species from global warming; and

WHEREAS, Hopewell Township is committed to preserving its environment and human welfare and has put major effort into becoming more sustainable, but despite its best efforts to promote sustainability, preserve wildlife and the environment, and protect the health of residents, life within the Township cannot be sustainable if the State, the Nation, and the Earth itself are not on a sustainable trajectory; and

WHEREAS, there is rising interest among Americans in taking action to minimize the dangers of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the environmental, health, and social costs of CO₂ emissions are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but rather these externalized costs are borne by all persons without their consent; and

WHEREAS, to begin to correct this market failure, Congress can impose a national carbon fee on the extraction, production, or importation of fossil fuels, based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit when burned; and

WHEREAS, Studies indicate that a steadily-increasing, revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend program, with the fee returned to households, would significantly reduce carbon emissions without harming the economy and would actually benefit lower- and middle-income Americans, would encourage businesses to develop and use non-carbon based energy sources, could be readily implemented, and could be structured to include border tariff adjustments on products imported from countries without carbon pricing, and refunds of carbon fees paid to exporters, so as to maintain the global competitiveness of U.S. businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Hopewell Township Committee, in its resolutions of July 10, 2017 and April 15, 2019, has urged the U.S. Congress to enact and the President to sign without delay a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend program; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2021, H.R. 2307, which would implement a program essentially identical to that which the Township asked for has been introduced to the 117th Congress; and that Representative Bonnie Watson Coleman is a co-sponsor of this bill.

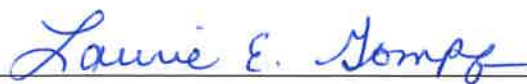
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hopewell Township Committee thanks Representative Watson Coleman for her co-sponsorship of H.R. 2307, congratulates her on her insight and leadership in supporting this key bill, and urges the U.S. Congress to enact and the President to sign without delay the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2021, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hopewell Township Committee urges neighboring municipalities to similarly call on their federal Representatives to co-sponsor the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2021 and encourage its passage by the U.S. Congress.

Date Adopted: June 14, 2021

CERTIFICATION

I, Laurie E. Gompf, Municipal Clerk, of the Township of Hopewell, County of Mercer, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Township Committee at the regular meeting held on the 14th day of June, 2021, via Zoom Video Communications.



Laurie E. Gompf, RMC, CMC
Municipal Clerk