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4 Resolution 2019 - 56
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7 **A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING H.R. 763 THE ENERGY**
8 **INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT**
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11 **WHEREAS**, increases in global average temperatures, the number and intensity
12 of extreme weather events, sea level rise, and the melting of glacial and
13 Arctic ice, indicate that the global climate is changing; and
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15 **WHEREAS**, Sawyer County has experienced two 500-year extreme rain events in
16 the past three years, which have caused extensive damage to Sawyer County
17 roads, bridges, culverts, and other infrastructure; and
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19 **WHEREAS**, studies by the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts project
20 that if climate change continues unchecked, Sawyer County will experience
21 increasingly warmer temperatures, especially during the winter months, and
22 increasing amounts of precipitation and extreme rain events; and
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24 **WHEREAS**, such changes are likely to have substantial adverse impacts on
25 Sawyer County's highways and roads and other critical infrastructure; and
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27 **WHEREAS**, such changes may also have adverse effects on Sawyer County's
28 forests and timber industry by decreasing suitable habitat for such
29 commercially important species as paper birch and quaking aspen,
30 increasing the risk of wildfires, and increasing stress from forest pests,
31 diseases, and non-native species; and
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33 **WHEREAS**, such changes may also have adverse impacts on Sawyer County
34 agriculture by increasing erosion from extreme rain events, hampering
35 access to fields at critical times, and causing alterations in late-winter
36 freeze/thaw cycles; and
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38 **WHEREAS**, such changes may also have adverse impacts on Sawyer County's
39 winter tourism economy by decreasing the duration of winter snow cover
40 and rendering winter conditions less predictable; and
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42 **WHEREAS**, Sawyer County's Comprehensive Plan provides that the County will
43 "continue to support the main economic drivers of the county including
44 manufacturing, forestry, tourism, agriculture, and health services"; and
45 "maintain a high-quality natural resource base and preserve our air, land,
46 and water at the highest level for future generations;" and "be a leader in
47 actively promoting renewable resources of energy and efficiency.;" and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Tweed Shuman, Sawyer County Board of Supervisors Chair