

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA
URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT, WITHOUT DELAY,
LEGISLATION THAT IMPACTFULLY ADDRESSES CLIMATE CHANGE
THROUGH NON-MARKET BASED AND MARKET BASED SOLUTIONS,
INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON FEES ON
CARBON-BASED FOSSIL FUELS**

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas (“GHG”) emissions from human activities, including the burning of fossil fuels, are causing rising global temperatures;

WHEREAS, research has shown that the average surface temperature on Earth has been increasing steadily, with seventeen of the eighteen warmest years occurring since 2000, and the hottest of all years to date being 2016; the global atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide (“CO₂”) exceeds 400 parts per million (ppm) in 2018, the highest level in at least eight hundred thousand years; and, the average global temperature by the year 2100 is projected to rise as much as 11 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the current average global temperature, depending on the rate of future GHG emissions;

WHEREAS, impacts of global warming can include, but are not limited to, increased occurrences of extreme weather events, significant impacts to human health and safety, destruction of ecosystems, and reduced economic productivity;

WHEREAS, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) commits the State of California to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and the State has further established goals to reduce GHG emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 (SB 32), and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 (Executive Order S-3-05);

WHEREAS, on June 20, 2017, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara adopted Resolution No. BOS-2017-85 affirming the County’s continuing commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, an international agreement that, in part, aims to hold the increase in global temperature well below 2 degrees Celsius;

WHEREAS, the environmental, health, and social costs of CO₂ emissions are borne by all global inhabitants, particularly those in disadvantaged communities;

WHEREAS, there is an immediate need to consider legislative solutions that are innovative and impactful so that reductions in CO₂ emissions are realized, including, but not limited to, market-based solutions such as a national carbon fee on fossil fuel production which

serves as a good example of efforts to capture the environmental, health, and social costs of CO2 emissions not currently included in the price paid for fossil fuels;

WHEREAS, any solution considered should (1) benefit the economy, human health, the environment and national security by correcting market distortions, reducing toxic pollutants, reducing the outflow of dollars to oil-producing countries, and improving the energy security of the United States; (2) be efficient, transparent, and enforceable to drive an effective and fair transition to a renewable energy economy; (3) incentivize manufacturers, businesses, and consumers throughout the economy to produce and use less fossil fuel; and, (4) stimulate investment in alternative-energy;

WHEREAS, any solution considered should aim to secure the United States as a leader in mitigating climate change and in the clean energy technologies of the 21st century, and should incentivize other countries to act similarly in reducing global GHG emissions; and,

WHEREAS, continued widespread use of fossil fuels and impacts due to climate change pose a present and growing risk to the residents of Santa Clara County, and nationwide market-based solutions, along with other innovative solutions, need to be immediately considered and, where feasible, implemented to help significantly mitigate the impacts of climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, that the United States Congress is urged to enact, without delay, legislation that impactfully addresses climate change through non-market-based and market-based solutions, including, consideration of revenue-neutral carbon fees on carbon-based fossil fuels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Senate Majority Leader, and to the 55 members of the California Congressional Delegation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, on _____, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

S. JOSEPH SIMITIAN, President
Board of Supervisors

Signed and certified that a copy of this

document has been delivered by electronic
or other means to the President, Board of Supervisors.
ATTEST:

MEGAN DOYLE
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

[INSERT NAME]
Deputy County Counsel