

1 **JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FEDERAL CARBON**

2 **FEE AND DIVIDEND PROGRAM**

3 2022 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Raymond P. Ward**

6 Senate Sponsor: _____

7

LONG TITLE

8 **General Description:**

9 This joint resolution addresses CO₂ pollution, its impact on the environment, and ways
10 to efficiently promote clean air technology.
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12 **Highlighted Provisions:**

13 This resolution:

- 14 ▶ describes the impact that CO₂ pollution has on the environment;
- 15 ▶ recognizes the value of energy;
- 16 ▶ recognizes the negative impacts of government regulation and support of specific
17 technologies;
- 18 ▶ supports the use of border adjusted carbon fees and dividends as the best way to
19 encourage the development of clean energy technologies;
- 20 ▶ supports coupling a border adjusted carbon fee and dividend program with a
21 decrease of individual regulations on and government support for individual
22 industry segments or specific companies;
- 23 ▶ opposes any requirement of reparations from the fossil fuel industry; and
- 24 ▶ supports a loosening of federal requirements placed on the mining industry to
25 facilitate acquisition of the minerals needed for clean energy technologies.

26 **Special Clauses:**

27 None



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Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, CO₂ pollutants contribute to the warming of the environment;

WHEREAS, this global warming is not a hypothetical future, but is already happening, as evidenced by an increase in average temperature over the last 60 years by 1 degree Fahrenheit globally, 2 degrees Fahrenheit in Utah, and 7 degrees Fahrenheit in the Arctic Circle;

WHEREAS, on a global scale, continued warming will almost certainly lead to many unpredictable, but bad outcomes;

WHEREAS, on a local level, increased heat would certainly mean decreased snow in the winter and decreased available water supply due to increased evaporation losses in the summer;

WHEREAS, humanity could not have attained the current level of prosperity without the energy derived from fossil fuels, and abundant affordable energy is necessary for humanity to continue to survive and prosper;

WHEREAS, there are many possible paths forward to generate the needed energy, including:

- solar power with battery storage;
- on and off-shore wind power;
- geothermal energy;
- green hydrogen production;
- coal production paired with carbon capture;
- nuclear energy; or
- other unidentified technologies;

WHEREAS, government decisions that support specific technologies have not resulted in the best outcomes and can be prone to corruption;

WHEREAS, free market principles require that a producer pay for the damage caused by the pollution generated to manufacture the product that the producer sells;

WHEREAS, instead of making arbitrary regulations for each particular industry, asking for producers of CO₂ pollution to pay for the producer's fair share of the damage caused and then letting individuals and investors in the private market choose which products they wish to

59 purchase and invest in is a better way to find and encourage the best clean energy technologies;

60 WHEREAS, to avoid increasing the burden on those least able to bare the cost, it is not
61 advisable to simply tax carbon, but rather to return the money collected from a carbon fee to
62 the taxpayer via a dividend program; and

63 WHEREAS, to avoid disadvantaging American manufacturers and energy producers
64 and to avoid off-shoring pollution to other countries, it is necessary to couple any carbon fee
65 and dividend program with a border tax adjustment, so that the CO₂ pollution from energy
66 production or from products produced in other countries pays its fair share when it crosses the
67 border into our country to be sold:

68 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah
69 expresses support for a border adjusted carbon fee and dividend program as the best way to
70 require that producers of CO₂ pollution pay for the impact that the manufacturing process has
71 on the environment while enlisting the power of the free market to identify and encourage the
72 best carbon free solutions.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports any border adjusted
74 carbon fee and dividend program be coupled with a decrease of individual regulations and
75 government support for individual industry segments or particular companies.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature opposes any requirement of
77 reparations from the fossil fuel industry, while our economy transitions to forms of energy
78 production that result in less CO₂ pollution.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports a loosening of the federal
80 requirements placed on mining in order to acquire the minerals needed for clean energy
81 technologies.

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah
83 congressional delegation.