

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board (ESAB)

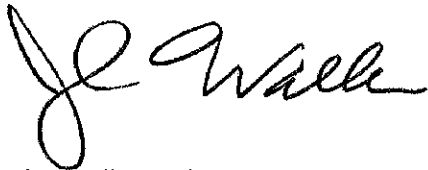
SUBJECT: Federal Revenue-Neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend Program Petition

DATE: January 31, 2018

On September 12, 2017, the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board met at its regular business to discuss a petition recommending that the Town Council endorse an initiative by the Citizens' Climate Lobby that asks the United States Congress to create a federal revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend program. The Board unanimously recommended that the Council consider the attached petition.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Wallace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

John Wallace, Chair
Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board

**Petition to the Chapel Hill Town Council in Support of A Resolution Endorsing a
Federal Revenue-Neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend Program
Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board
January 31, 2017**

WHEREAS, The Town of Chapel Hill supports the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as outlined in the Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The scientific community is in near-unanimous agreement that human activity is the primary cause of the rapid warming through the burning of fossil fuels that emit carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases; and

WHEREAS, The environmental, health, and social costs of carbon dioxide emissions are not currently included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but are externalized and borne directly and indirectly by all citizens; and

WHEREAS, A revenue-neutral carbon fee, based on the amount of carbon dioxide emitted upon burning fossil fuels, could be enacted by the United States Congress to correct this market failure; and

WHEREAS, A national revenue-neutral carbon fee, starting at a relatively low rate and increasing steadily over future years, is a market-based solution that would minimally disrupt the economy while encouraging businesses to develop and use non-carbon based energy sources; and

WHEREAS, All revenues from the carbon fee can be returned directly to citizens in the form of a dividend program, where all households receive an equal monthly per-person dividend payment that ensures families can afford to pay for the energy they need during the transition to a greenhouse gas-free economy; and

WHEREAS, A national revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend program has bipartisan support and would make the United States a leader in mitigating climate change and in the clean energy technologies of the 21st Century; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board hereby petitions the Chapel Hill Town Council to adopt a resolution endorsing a federal revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend program.