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July 15, 2019

Lakewood City Council  
Lakewood, Ohio

**Re: Resolution to support Climate Change plans**

Dear Colleagues,

We write to request your consideration of the attached resolution that would express the City of Lakewood's support for three related and mutually-supportive plans to address climate change, a problem that is growing in urgency and which already affects Lakewood in the form of severe storms, higher lake levels, higher temperatures, and changing weather patterns.

At the request of a number of Lakewood residents, we specifically invite your support for the Bluegreen Alliance's Solidarity for Climate Action plan; for the Green New Deal resolution (H.R. 109); and for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763).

Two of these climate change plans would set priorities and provide a broad policy framework to guide federal, state, and local action, while the third would implement a central strategy (cap-and-dividend) to address climate change. (Summaries of each are included below.) Many additional steps must follow to put these policies in action and attain the goal of mitigating the worst effects of climate change.

Of course, our City cannot act alone to effectively address climate change, which is global in scale. This is why it is especially important that we call upon our state and federal partners to work on this issue in a focused manner.

But we must do our part, and happily, the City of Lakewood has been working for years to improve our energy use, transportation system, storm water management, and many other areas. To name of few, these include: sidewalk repair, increasing bicycling, increasing our urban forest canopy, weatherizing homes and commercial buildings, converting street lights to LED, sourcing clean power for city operations, installing and encouraging solar, adding electrical cogeneration to our wastewater treatment plant, expanding recycling, and keeping Ohio's densest community a vibrant destination of choice.

Our Community Vision articulates support for sustainability throughout, and the City's Resiliency Task Force will soon report its analysis on how our City and community can further improve—and prepare for climate change disruptions.

Let's continue our leadership, which is badly needed in a divisive chapter of American society in which scientific problems have been politicized such that many leaders shirk their responsibilities on climate. Our state and our country need to hear our community's voice: they need to hear that we are engaging this problem with foresight and responsibility.

Sincerely,



Tom Bullock  
Councilmember At Large



Tristan Rader  
Councilmember At Large

### **Summary of Key Provisions:**

#### Solidarity for Climate Action plan

- Authored by the Bluegreen Alliance endorsed by its labor and environmental partners, including: United Steelworkers, Sierra Club, Communications Workers of America, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Wildlife Federation, Service Employees International Union, American Federation of Teachers, Plumbers, Utility Workers, SMART, Environmental Defense Fund, and the Bricklayers.
- Seeks to address “dual crises of climate change and increasing economic inequality.” Notes that “not enough of the new jobs that have been created or promised in the clean energy economy are high-quality, family-sustaining jobs, nor are these jobs in the same communities that have seen the loss of good-paying, union jobs.”
- Calls for “Rapid GHG emissions reductions”; “Ambitious and strategic public investments to rebuild and modernize America’s infrastructure and make our communities more resilient.”
- Calls for “A national strategy to lead in clean and emerging technology production and supply chain development, including major investments in domestic advanced technology manufacturing and innovation, penalizing offshoring, and a commitment to at least doubling funding of clean technology research, development, manufacturing, and deployment.”
- Calls for “Increasing union density across the country through strong support of the right to organize throughout the economy, including in the clean technology sectors.”
- Calls for fairness to workers and communities and for “Community benefit, workforce, and other similar agreements that improve access to jobs and career paths, and identify and implement mechanisms to ameliorate and improve local economic and environmental impacts;”
- Full text: <https://www.bluegreenalliance.org/work-issue/solidarity-for-climate-action/>

#### H.R. 109, Green New Deal

- Calls for net-zero emissions by 2050 and for the United States to take a “leading role” in achieving that.
- Calls on the federal government to dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create high-paying jobs, ensure that clean air, clean water and healthy food are basic human rights.
- Calls for the launch of a “10-year mobilization” to reduce carbon emissions in the United States.
- Calls for sourcing 100 percent of the country’s electricity from renewable and zero-emissions power, digitizing the nation’s power grid, upgrading every building in the country to be more energy-efficient, and overhauling the nation’s transportation system by investing in electric vehicles and high-speed rail.
- Calls for job training and new economic development for those relying on jobs in fossil fuel industries.
- Full text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-resolution/109/text>
- Source: NY Times, “What Is the Green New Deal? A Climate Proposal, Explained”, Lisa Friedman, Feb. 21, 2019.

#### Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763).

- Would implement a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend as a method to reduce carbon emissions.
- Would return all revenues (minus 3% for administration) to each American as a monthly dividend, to offset expected higher prices for goods and services.
- Fee would use a market approach to encourage innovation.
- A border adjustment would assess a fee on goods traded with countries without a comparable carbon price, thereby maintaining the competitiveness of U.S. businesses and discouraging outsourcing.

A Resolution to endorse various plans to address climate change, a pressing problem already affecting Lakewood.

WHEREAS climate scientists worldwide are in near-unanimous agreement that the earth is warming rapidly and to a degree that is perilous to human civilization, to numerous species, and to the global ecosystem; and

WHEREAS human activity is a significant contributor to climate change, especially through the accelerating combustion of fossil fuels that create carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases as a byproduct; and

WHEREAS climate change poses a serious threat to the United States, including the City of Lakewood, in terms of the economy, public health, and environment, as the recent Fourth National Climate Assessment makes clear; and

WHEREAS a prompt and major shift toward zero-emissions generation is a necessary cornerstone to any meaningful response to climate change; and

WHEREAS the labor and environmental coalition known as the Bluegreen Alliance, comprised of Steelworkers, Sierra Club, Utility Workers and many other unions and environmental organizations has authored the Solidarity for Action Plan to address the dual crises of climate change and increasing economic inequality by calling for rapid greenhouse gas emissions reductions, ambitious and strategic public investments to rebuild and modernize America's infrastructure, and increasing workers' right to organize and fairness to workers and communities in all such actions; and

WHEREAS the Green New Deal Resolution (H.R. 109) recognizes the duty of the U.S. federal government to rapidly achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions through a fair and just transition for all communities and workers by creating millions of good, high-wage jobs; and

WHEREAS the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763) has been introduced in Congress and would establish a steadily increasing fee on fossil fuels at their point of entry into the economy; such a fee would be straightforward and uses free-market mechanisms to incentivize the shift to greater energy conservation and renewable sources of energy; and

WHEREAS such a policy would protect lower- and middle-income households, as the dividend would allow more millions of American households, many here in Lakewood, to benefit financially from this policy; the policy would also create jobs, as the dividend puts money back into local economies; and

WHEREAS climate change is as much a local problem as it is a global problem, requiring local solutions such as adding renewable energy infrastructure such as roof top solar to municipal buildings. Solar has become economically viable, allowing the City of Lakewood to reduce dependency on grid power; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Ohio and the Ohio Revised Code, municipalities have the power of local self-government, and the power to enact laws that are for health, safety, and welfare; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That this Council hereby resolves to continue to move the City of Lakewood towards zero-emissions electricity through wise use of energy-saving measures and through addition of equipment to generate or purchase of zero-emission power for City use.

Section 2. That this Council hereby supports the Solidarity for Action Plan and supports passage of the Green New Deal Resolution (H.R. 109) and the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 763).

Section 3. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal actions were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Section 4. The Clerk of Council is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Mayor and a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to President Donald Trump, Vice-President Michael Pence, Governor Mike DeWine, U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur, U.S. Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman, State Senator Nickie Antonio, and State Representative Michael Skindell.and shall be spread upon the minutes of this meeting.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor