

1 such as heat waves, storms, heavy rainfall and flooding, and droughts; more frequent and
2 intense wildfires; disrupted ecosystems affecting biodiversity and food production; and an
3 increase in heat related deaths; and
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5 **WHEREAS**, scientists have concluded that by 2100 as many as one in 10 species may
6 be on the verge of extinction due to climate change; and
7

8 **WHEREAS**, rising sea levels, reduced snow pack in the Sierras, and extreme weather
9 are issues that are beginning to affect the San Francisco Bay Area; sea level rise in the Bay Area
10 is expected to increase by sixteen inches by 2050 and fifty-five inches by 2100; and miles of
11 shoreline and parks could be underwater, which could result in \$62 billion worth of
12 infrastructure damage in the Bay Area; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, by mid-century, the City of Albany could see three to four times as many
15 extreme heat days as we do today with related increases in hospitalizations and deaths, especially
16 for vulnerable populations of seniors, young children, low-income households; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the City of Albany has been a leader in the fight against climate change,
19 having adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2010, which aims to reduce the city's carbon emissions
20 to 25% below 2004 baseline emission levels by 2020; and
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22 **WHEREAS**, the continued increase in global atmospheric CO₂ concentration
23 requires broader, more powerful policies to supplement local and regional efforts to
24 reduce emissions; and
25

26 **WHEREAS**, presently the environmental, health, and social costs of CO₂ emissions
27 are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but rather these externalized costs are
28 borne directly and indirectly by all Americans and global citizens; and
29

1 **WHEREAS**, to begin to correct this market failure, Congress can enact a national
2 carbon tax on fossil fuels, based on the amount of CO₂ the fuel will emit when burned;
3 and

4
5 **WHEREAS**, for efficient administration, fossil fuels can be taxed once, as far
6 upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States; and

7
8 **WHEREAS**, a national, revenue-neutral carbon tax starting at a relatively low rate
9 and increasing steadily over future years is a market-based solution that would minimally
10 disrupt the economy while sending a clear and predictable price signal to businesses to
11 develop and use non-carbon-based energy resources; and

12
13 **WHEREAS**, if 100% of carbon tax revenue is returned to households in equal
14 shares, the majority of Americans will break even or come out ahead, as their dividends
15 match or exceed direct and indirect price increases due to the tax, protecting lower and
16 middle income households; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, border adjustments—carbon content-based tariffs on products
19 imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing, and refunds to our exporters
20 of carbon taxes paid—can maintain the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in global
21 markets; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, a national carbon tax can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and
24 respond to the urgency of the climate crisis, because the federal government already has
25 in place mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service, needed to implement and
26 enforce the tax, and already collects taxes from fossil fuel producers and importers; and

27
28 **WHEREAS**, a national carbon tax would make the United States a leader in
29 mitigating climate change and in the clean energy technologies of the 21st Century, and

1 would incentivize other countries to enact similar carbon taxes, reducing global CO₂
2 emissions without the need for complex international agreements; and

3
4 **WHEREAS**, the goals of a national carbon tax to reduce CO₂ emissions are
5 consistent with state and local programs designed to mitigate climate change, such as
6 California’s AB32 and Albany’s Climate Action Plan; and

7
8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Albany City Council hereby
9 urges the United States Congress to enact without delay a tax on carbon-based fossil
10 fuels; and

11
12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the should be collected once, as far upstream
13 in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States; and

14
15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the tax rate should start low and increase
16 steadily and predictably, to achieve the goal of reducing U.S. CO₂ emissions to 10% of
17 1990 levels by 2050; and

18
19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all tax revenue should be returned to
20 households to protect low and middle income Americans from the impact of rising prices
21 due to the tax; and

22
23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the international competitiveness of U.S.
24 businesses should be protected by using border tariffs and tax refunds.

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27 _____
28 PETER MAASS, MAYOR
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