



Los Angeles County
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Carbon Fee and Dividend as a Means of Combating Global Warming

WHEREAS the overwhelming scientific consensus holds that the earth's temperature is warming; that the chief cause of this warming is the emission of greenhouse gases, especially the emission of carbon dioxide as a result of the burning of fossil fuels; that the warming of the earth will lead to extreme weather events including extreme heat waves, severe hurricanes and floods of increasing frequency and severity, increasingly severe wildfires, a large rise in sea level, increased drought with attendant water scarcity and damage to food supply with resultant famine, increased incidence of infectious diseases, species extinction and loss of ecosystems, forcing large populations to become climate refugees and leading to widespread political instability; and that human beings must eliminate the burning of fossil fuels by the middle of the century in order to avoid these catastrophic effects, and that failure to act in the very near future may make it impossible to take effective action before it is too late, and

WHEREAS the overwhelming consensus among economists is that a carbon tax or a similar mechanism of placing a price on carbon emissions is an effective means of decreasing such emissions and is a necessary part of any successful program by which mankind will replace fossil fuels with alternative sources of energy, with 46 countries currently pricing carbon emissions and many others that have committed to instituting such pricing mechanisms in international agreements, and

WHEREAS a carbon fee and dividend program, in which producers of fossil fuels are taxed at the point of extraction and all the fees are returned to Americans as a dividend, will allow lower income people to manage the increased cost of fuel and other consumer goods as a result of the fee and will simultaneously pump money into the economy, increase jobs and improve public health, and that such a program is an effective means of addressing climate change in a way that treats disadvantaged people in a just manner, and that inclusion of the dividend makes it more likely that this plan will gain widespread acceptance and support,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Angeles County Democratic Party endorses the use by the United States of a carbon fee and dividend as part of a program to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate global warming; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED we shall communicate this resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom, Senate President pro Tempore Toni G. Atkins and the Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon.

Submitted by Tony Hale AD66

Authored by Jeff Cohlberg, Representative of Citizens' Climate Lobby