

Letter to the Citizens' Climate Lobby

The Hendersonville City Council of North Carolina established the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) — a citizen advisory board — in order to keep the Council advised of environmental matters pertaining to the city. A paramount environmental issue pertaining to the city is the changing climate which is now at the tipping point for humanity. Hendersonville has already seen an explosion of growth in recent decades as more people move to the city from less hospitable environs. As the nation's shorelines grow less stable and the West suffers from increased drought and fire, more people are likely to pour into relatively comfortable and established cities such as Hendersonville. **The ESB has therefore urged Hendersonville City Council to take immediate action to influence federal policy to safeguard the citizens of Hendersonville from the serious harms of climate change.**

The Council has wisely put a flood control plan in place in an attempt to prevent the negative effects similar to the flood of 1916 from happening here again. But a century ago, Hendersonville did not have to contend with the immigration of climate refugees from Florida and the coasts. Henderson County is expected to see the need for 17,000 new residence in the next few years, many of them in Hendersonville.

We, the members of the ESB, support the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act that has been introduced in the House of Representatives (H.R. 2307). This carbon fee and dividend approach is the fairest, most fiscally responsible and quickest way to reduce national carbon emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 (in line with goals set by our state). It is fair because every household will see a dividend. It is the most fiscally responsible because the fossil fuel producers will pay a fee for extracting carbon (coal, oil, natural gas), which, although passed on to consumers, will be returned to households in equal shares, with at most 2% of the revenue used for processing. It is quickest because it would reduce U.S. carbon emissions by 33% in 10 years and 90% by 2050.

A national revenue-neutral carbon fee would make the United States a leader in mitigating climate change and in the clean energy technologies of the 21st century and would provide incentive to other countries to enact similar carbon fees, reducing global CO2 emissions without the need for complex international agreements. **The ESB supports the passage of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act because the ability of Hendersonville, NC to thrive well into the future depends on the federal government expediently adopting a carbon fee and dividend policy.**

With Unanimous Support,

The Environmental Sustainability Board
Hendersonville, NC