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CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-99

INTRODUCED BY:

Councilor Bushee

Councilor Ives

A RESOLUTION

RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE AS A REAL AND GROWING THREAT TO THE WELL-BEING OF PRESENT AND FUTURE INHABITANTS OF SANTA FE AND URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION THAT LEVIES AN ANNUALLY INCREASING REVENUE NEUTRAL FEE ON THE CARBON IN FOSSIL FUELS AT THE POINT OF PRODUCTION AND IMPORTATION.

WHEREAS, climate scientists worldwide are in near-unanimous agreement that the planet is warming rapidly and to a degree that is perilous to human civilization, to numerous species and to the global ecosystem and that the primary cause of that warming is human activity, especially through the accelerating combustion of fossil fuels that create CO₂ as a byproduct; and

WHEREAS, the newly-released 2013 IPCC Report has reinforced these findings, especially the extent of human agency in causing climate change, including that:

- Atmospheric concentrations of CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide have increased to levels unprecedented in the last 800,000 years, and CO₂ concentrations have increased by 40% since pre-industrial times; and

- 1 • It is extremely likely (95-100%), that more than half of the observed increase in global
2 average surface temperature from 1951-2010 was caused by the manmade increase in
3 greenhouse gas concentrations and other anthropogenic forces; and
- 4 • Every additional release of greenhouse gases diminishes our chances of avoiding
5 catastrophic climate change; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the *City of Santa Fe Municipal Charter* charges the governing body with the
7 responsibility “to secure for ourselves and our children the continuity of our cultural values, our
8 personal freedoms, and our well-being,” declares that “[t]he natural beauty of Santa Fe” is “among
9 the city’s most valued and important assets,” and charges the governing body of Santa Fe to “protect,
10 preserve and enhance the city’s natural endowments, plan for and regulate land use and development,
11 manage the city’s growth, encourage source reduction,” and take such actions as are necessary to do
12 so; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Fe has a record of accepting these responsibilities and
14 acknowledging the reality of climate change, probable effects of climate change on our City, and our
15 ability and responsibility to reduce our contribution to the causes of climate change – as evidenced by
16 the City’s endorsement of the U. S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement; the
17 adoption of the Sustainable Santa Fe Plan (Resolution 2008-93); the establishment of the Sustainable
18 Santa Fe Commission; and the passing of Resolutions addressing these concerns (e.g., Resolutions
19 2009-45, 2011-17, 2012-12, 2013-12 and 2013-12, among others); and

20 **WHEREAS**, the urgent need to transition from fossil fuels can best be accomplished with a
21 market-based program, namely a revenue-neutral carbon fee and rebate; and

22 **WHEREAS**, such an instrument would encourage consumers and the market to replace their
23 consumption of carbon-based energy with innovative energy sources, whether by being more efficient
24 or by choosing other, less carbon-intensive energy sources; and

25 **WHEREAS**, this revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend is a superior method to reduce

1 carbon emissions for the following reasons:

- 2 (1) The fee would motivate everyone to conserve and to adopt renewable energy without
3 the need for extensive governmental regulatory controls or infrastructure;
- 4 (2) The fee would employ a free market approach to encourage innovative processes, not
5 only in energy production, but also in every other field in which energy is consumed,
6 e.g., electric cars, mass transportation, architectural planning and construction, water
7 heating, lighting, and air conditioning in residential and commercial buildings;
- 8 (3) Levying the fee at the point of production would be more efficient, less expensive
9 and provide more accurate price signals than would doing so at the points of
10 consumption;
- 11 (4) The fee would incentivize the development and use of alternative energies and
12 attendant technologies, eliminating the need for government subsidies that attempt to
13 forecast alternative energy winners and losers;
- 14 (5) Because the fee is levied on the same basis on all businesses, it is fairer to every
15 business and easier to administer than alternatives, such as a cap and trade system;
16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, further delay in responding to this crisis increases the risk of catastrophic
18 climate change, imminently threatens low-lying coastal areas and land and sea species, threatens
19 water supplies, increases the frequency of severe weather events, reduces the time available and
20 increases the cost of undertaking adequate responses, and increases risks to the global economy.

21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE**
22 **CITY OF SANTA FE** that the governing body recognizes that the pollution caused by humans
23 burning fossil fuels is recognized by scientists as a primary cause of climate change; that the City of
24 Santa Fe Municipal Charter charges the governing body with protection of our city's residents and
25 natural assets; and that a necessary measure to address this problem is the enactment of a revenue-

1 neutral fee on carbon production at its source, with the fees being returned to Americans as a
2 dividend.

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the governing body:

4 (1) Strongly urges the U.S. Congress to pass legislation that levies an annually
5 increasing revenue neutral fee on the carbon in fossil fuels at the point of production
6 and importation, that would be sufficient to:

- 7 (a) Encourage individuals and corporations to produce and use less fossil fuels;
- 8 (b) Make the transition from fossil fuels less onerous to consumers and to the
9 economy by returning to Americans on an equitable basis all of the revenues
10 gained from the fee;
- 11 (c) Reduce US CO₂-equivalent emissions to 10% of 1990 levels by 2050;
- 12 (d) Encourage similar actions by other nations trading with the United States, by
13 suitable carbon-content-based fees for imports and rebates for exports to
14 nations that have not taken such actions.

15 (2) Requests that the U.S. Congress construct and implement this policy with the speed
16 appropriate to the gravity and urgency of the situation.

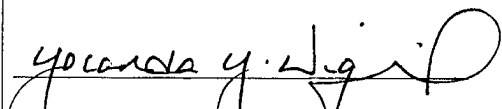
17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this
18 resolution to the City's Congressional Delegation.

19 PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED this 13th day of November, 2013.

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22 DAVID COSS, MAYOR

23 ATTEST:

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25 YOLANDA Y. VIGIL, CITY CLERK

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelley A. Brennan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

KELLEY A. BRENNAN, INTERIM CITY ATTORNEY