

**A MINUTE Regarding H.R. 763:  
The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019**

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Vashon Religious Society of Friends Worship Group asks the United States Congress to pass H. R. 763: The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019<sup>1</sup>. It would impose a steadily rising fee on the carbon content of fossil fuels and would distribute the fees collected in equal shares to every household in our country. For transitioning to a low-carbon economy we strongly support this approach, which has been recommended by economists worldwide<sup>2</sup>. We also strongly support reducing carbon emissions in a way that assists lower-income households and others who are most affected by this transition, which this bill does.

We, members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), are a faith-based group who share a moral conviction to stand for care of our mother, Earth, to the best of our abilities<sup>3</sup>. Earth hosts us with the ultimate gift of sustaining our lives. As moral humans we must do our utmost to preserve and support that sustenance and to pass it on to our descendants. We speak not only out of concern for our own children and descendants, but for those less advantaged with no voice on our planet, whose survival is already threatened by climate change.

The scientific evidence indicates that humans are causing uncontrolled changes to the Earth's climate by releasing huge quantities of greenhouse gases. An overwhelming consensus of informed experts believe that if we allow these emissions to continue at a high rate for even 10 more years, the effects on life as we know it on Earth will be highly destructive and effectively irreversible for hundreds of years and that effects on human civilization - as well as other life forms, which have unrepresented rights - are likely to be catastrophic<sup>4</sup>. Studies indicate that pricing carbon is an efficient and effective way to reduce emissions quickly and that returning fees to households helps low-income families and the overall economy<sup>5</sup>.

Using both our rational thoughts - as persons who practice risk management in our lives, especially where the welfare of our children and descendants are concerned - as well as our hearts - as convicted believers that we must act morally and minimize harm to others when we can - we respectfully request that Congress pass H.R. 763 this session.

October 20, 2019

1 <https://energyinnovationact.org/>

2 <https://www.econstatement.org/>

3 <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/article/shared-quaker-statement-facing-challenge-climate-change>

4 <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

5 <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/remi-report/>