

Statement of Support on the Principles of a Bi-partisan Carbon Pricing and Dividends Solution

The majority of Americans believes climate change is a grave concern and would accept the cost of stricter regulations. At the same time, the majority of Republicans view the economic costs of stricter regulations as outweighing the benefits.¹

A recent proposal by eight Republicans of the Climate Leadership Council lays out a carbon pricing and dividends plan that offers a middle ground between these concerns. This proposal should be used as a starting point for bi-partisan discussions. The proposal would cut carbon emissions by 28% by 2025 (compared to an emissions reduction of 16% if all Obama Administration policies were left in place), provide an average dividends payment of \$2,000 to American households that would economically benefit 70% of Americans, and protect American economic competitiveness with carbon content border adjustments.² In addition, economic analysis of other carbon pricing and dividends plans reveal that they can result in the creation of millions of new jobs in the United States through economic stimulus and dramatically increased GDP.³

Solutions to climate change and growing economic insecurity can't wait any longer; we need real leadership from our elected representatives right now. To build momentum for a bi-partisan solution that benefits all Americans, we are asking you to sign this document to support the principles of a carbon pricing and dividends framework.

We, the various undersigned elected representatives and community leaders of New York State, support the following principles of a carbon pricing and dividends proposal in order to begin discussions on how we might take bi-partisan, impactful action to address climate change while addressing concerns of economic competitiveness and delivering economic benefits to our constituents:

- 1. Instituting carbon pricing on CO₂ emissions; steadily increasing from \$40/ton CO₂;*
- 2. Returning revenues raised directly to the American people through direct dividend payments to households and exploring other potential uses, such as energy efficiency incentives, transition support from affected economic sectors, and community innovation grants;*
- 3. Incorporating border adjustments for the carbon content of both imports and exports to address concerns around American economic competitiveness; and*
- 4. Analyzing current carbon emissions regulations to identify those that are 100% redundant for possible adjustment or elimination if a proposal following these principles was enacted.*

In good faith and working on behalf of the community members we represent, we can find a bi-partisan solution to this great challenge.

¹ "Most Americans favor stricter environmental laws and regulations". [Pew Research Center](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/12/14/most-americans-favor-stricter-environmental-laws-and-regulations/). (December 14, 2016). Retrieved from: <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/12/14/most-americans-favor-stricter-environmental-laws-and-regulations/>

² "The Conservative Case for Carbon Dividends". [Climate Leadership Council](https://www.clcouncil.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/02/TheConservativeCaseforCarbonDividends.pdf). (February, 2017). Retrieved from: <https://www.clcouncil.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/02/TheConservativeCaseforCarbonDividends.pdf>

³ "The Economic, Climate, Fiscal, Power and Demographic Impact of a National Fee-and-Dividend Carbon Tax". [Citizens' Climate Lobby](https://citizensclimatelobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/The-Economic-Climate-Fiscal-Power-and-Demographic-Impact-of-a-National-Fee-and-Dividend-Carbon-Tax-6.9.14.pdf). (June, 2014). Retrieved from: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/The-Economic-Climate-Fiscal-Power-and-Demographic-Impact-of-a-National-Fee-and-Dividend-Carbon-Tax-6.9.14.pdf>