



Put A Price On It DC: A Letter of Support

We, the undersigned businesses and organizations, support our city’s leadership on climate change and clean energy. The Sustainable DC plan and Climate Ready DC plan provide comprehensive blueprints to make DC the healthiest, greenest, and most livable city in the nation. Both recommend carbon pricing as an exemplary and cost-effective tool which will help us meet our city’s commitments to decarbonizing our economies, increasing access to clean energy, and creating long-term opportunities for green jobs and business creation. **We are a coalition of organizations and businesses like yours** who support the transition to a greener economy and healthier community through a carbon pricing program. **We’d like to invite you to join us in advancing the Carbon Fee and Family Rebate Act (working title).**

By charging the District’s biggest polluting companies per ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂) they emit, this proposed legislation would accelerate D.C.’s transition to clean energy and jumpstart our economy. By rebating nearly 100% of these “carbon fee” proceeds back to District residents on a regular, quarterly basis, it will benefit everyone while boosting the net incomes of low- and middle-income families. This type of fee-and-rebate model is an increasingly common feature of “carbon price” policies being advanced at the city, state, and provincial levels in both the United States and worldwide.

Experts—economists, CEOs, and scientists alike—across the political spectrum agree that carbon pricing is one of the most straightforward and cost-effective ways to fight climate change. Using price signals that spur conservation and clean energy investments, carbon pricing is a fair, transparent, and built-to-last solution to the challenge of reducing CO₂ emissions. With a strong plan, the Carbon Fee and Family Rebate Act will put more money in the pockets of D.C. families while putting less carbon in the atmosphere.

Why should businesses support the Carbon Fee?

It will benefit the local business economy: By rebating the funds raised from the fee directly back to citizens, residents will invest their money back into local business.

DC already provides ways to make your business greener: Your business is not alone in this! We have tax incentives, rebates, tax credits, and financing to make green energy options more accessible and affordable.

It will benefit residents: DC families will benefit economically and environmentally from cleaner air and water. The rebate would primarily boost the net incomes of low- and middle-income families. A rush of technological innovation in energy efficiency and renewable energy will create jobs and increase access to green goods and services. Families will have more money in their family bank accounts—that means more money to

improve their quality of life and more money to spend on local goods and services. Plus, we will be breathing cleaner air and drinking cleaner water!

This model is economically predictable: Unlike regulations, a carbon fee program allows polluters to decide where and how they are able reduce their emissions, keeping our fuel economy stable.

Together we can advance our city! We can reduce CO₂ levels in the atmosphere and stabilize our climate. By making DC a leader in carbon pricing policy, we are sending a signal to investors that clean energy will be more profitable in the future and create an economic shift towards a green economy. Evidence shows that carbon pricing stimulates the economy, promotes job growth, and increases GDPs.

We invite your input in the process of structuring the bill. Our current plan envisions a \$20 fee per ton of carbon pollution, increasing by \$10 per ton per year, plus inflation. Electricity, home heating fuels, and vehicle fuel are the

energy sources included—that means big energy providers, like Exelon, Pepco, and Washington Gas. In the first year alone, that would mean a \$225 rebate to every D.C. resident. The rebate would continue to grow until the city’s sustainability goals are met. This bill would rebate nearly 100% of the carbon fee revenues back to D.C. residents through electronic funds transfers or the mailing of paper checks. It would devote a portion of the revenue to increasing homeless services, thus ensuring that D.C.’s most vulnerable population also gains support through this program. A small fraction of the revenue would be set aside for the administrative costs of running the program. All D.C. residents are eligible for a rebate. All of the proceeds from the fee will go directly back into our community—so we will benefit from both the reduction in air pollution and the funds generated from the fee!

Climate change is costing us all. We are paying with our health, our security, and our future. The legislation we want to see enacted will meaningfully reduce emissions while uplifting our community. **Please join us in building support for the Carbon Fee and Family Rebate Act and Coalition.** Your membership means both support as well as a space to participate in the process of structuring the bill through feedback and suggestions. By pledging to join the Coalition, you will be supporting the initiative to make D.C. the healthiest, greenest, and most livable city in the country. **We will place D.C. at the forefront of the global movement to protect communities from pollution, stop climate change, and jumpstart a green economy in our city!**

Sincerely,

The Carbon Fee and Rebate Coalition

350DC

Americans for Transit

Art Killing Apathy

Black Millennials for Flint

Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA)

Central North East Civic Association in Ward 7

Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Citizens’ Climate Lobby DC Chapter

DC Catholic Conference

DC Divest

DC Environmental Network

DC for Democracy

DC Fiscal Policy Institute

DC SUN

Green America

Jews United for Justice

Moms Clean Air Force

Neighborhood Sun

ONE DC

Organic Consumers Association

Pleasant Pops

Public Citizen

Rising Hearts Coalition

SEIU 32BJ

Sierra Club DC Chapter

U.S. Climate Plan

Up Top Acres

Universal Child Care Now - DC Coalition

Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless

Washington Walks

Working Families Party DC

Zenful Bites