

# ON SUPPORT FOR THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT

Submitted by Wider Church Ministries  
A Resolution of Witness

## SUMMARY

This resolution supports The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, H. R. 763, which has been submitted to the U. S. House of Representatives on January 24, 2019. This Act applies the Fee and Dividend approach to help solve the climate change problem.

## BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL AND ETHICAL RATIONALE

In the Psalms, we find “The Earth is the Lord’s,” (Psalm 24:1). In the Gospels, Jesus responded to the question, “Which is the greatest commandment?” by stating, “‘you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. And the second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:29-31). As Christians, we must to support legislation that will reduce the devastation from climate change both in our country and around the world, especially when it is most destructive to the poorest people and nations.

## TEXT OF THE MOTION

Whereas, climate change, caused largely by pollution from using fossil carbon, has caused problems from drought, severe storms, flooding, rising ocean levels, ocean acid increase, and species destruction; and

Whereas, The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 was introduced into the U. S. House of Representatives on January 24, 2019, with bi-partisan cosponsors, and

Whereas, the 2017 UCC Synod passed "The Earth is the Lord's, not Ours to Wreck," a resolution to combat climate change; and

Whereas, the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church supports a national tax on carbon-based fossil fuels based on the Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal of the Citizens' Climate Lobby; and

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has supported climate action using a carbon dividend plan; and

Whereas, climate change threatens most those who are poor and least able to cope with the changes; and

Whereas, the United Church of Christ consistently favors uniting actions ; and

Whereas, the fee and dividend approach of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act provides an effective reduction in fossil carbon pollution, is good for people, especially the poor, is good for the economy, is supported by members from both major parties, and is revenue neutral; and

Whereas, The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act applies a fee on extraction of fossil carbon, returns the money to people as a dividend, supports fair international trade, and increases the fossil carbon fee yearly; and

Whereas, The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act is an appropriate action toward the goals of the Green New Deal;

Therefore be it resolved, that the General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its clear support for The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, H. R. 763;

Be it further resolved that the General Synod encourages all settings of the United Church of Christ to seek ways to learn more about climate change and solutions;

Be it further resolved that the national setting of the United Church of Christ make available resources to learn about and engage with people of other faiths on climate change;

Be it finally resolved that members and settings of the United Church of Christ speak out for energy innovations and conservation to reduce climate change.

### FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

### IMPLEMENTATION

The Collegium of Officers, in consultation with appropriate ministries or other entities within the United Church of Christ, will determine the implementing body.