The following resolution has been received by the Office of the General Minister and President after the deadline established by the Standing Rules of the Thirty-second General Synod but noting the “could not have been anticipated” paragraph in the General Synod Standing Rules. Any resolution must meet all of the requirements of the Standing Rules (see Standing Rule 11). The Sub-Committee on Disposition has recommended that this resolution go to a Committee of the General Synod. The Board of Directors will decide in June whether to affirm the recommendation of the Sub-committee on Disposition.

ON SUPPORT FOR THE ENERGY INNOVATION AND CARBON DIVIDEND ACT OF 2019

A Resolution of Witness

Submitted by Irvine United Congregational Church, Irvine, CA
Diamond Bar United Church of Christ, Diamond Bar, CA
Mt. Hollywood United Church of Christ, Hollywood, CA
Claremont United Church of Christ, Claremont, CA
First Congregational Church, Long Beach, CA
Boise First Congregational, Boise, ID
Community Congregational Church, Chula Vista, CA
The Neighborhood United Church of Christ, Bath, ME
MCC United Church of Christ in the Valley, N. Hollywood, CA
Calvary United Church of Christ, Reading, PA
Federated Church, Marlborough, NH
Second Church of Newton, Newton, MA
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Grand Junction, CO
Brea Congregational United Church of Christ, Brea, CA
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Downers Grove, IL
Immanuel Congregational Church, Hartford, CT
Church of the Foothills UCC & DOC, Santa Ana, CA
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Hendersonville, NC

SUMMARY

This resolution supports the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, 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 (NRSV)

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 neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:29-31). As Christians, we must 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 of 2019 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 of 2019 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 of 2019 is bi-partisan and neither supports nor rejects other proposals related to climate change; it can co-exist non-competitively with such proposals;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Thirty-Second General Synod of the United Church of Christ expresses its clear support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, H. R. 763;

Be it further resolved that the Thirty-Second 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 Thirty-Second General Synod encourages 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 the Thirty-Second General Synod encourages members and settings of the United Church of Christ to speak out for energy innovations and conservation to reduce climate change.

**FUNDING**

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

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2. [https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr763](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/hr763)
3. [http://www.ucc.org/news_gsdeclaring_the_earth_is_the_lords_ucc_calls_for_environmental_imperatives_for_a_new_moral_era_07042017](http://www.ucc.org/news_gsdeclaring_the_earth_is_the_lords_ucc_calls_for_environmental_imperatives_for_a_new_moral_era_07042017)