

February 26, 2021

Re: SJM 5-1

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to express my support for SJM 5-1 to urge Congress to adopt the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act or similar legislation.

I'm a mother of two and student at the University of Denver pursuing a master's in environmental policy and management. I was prompted to enroll in this program following our record-setting fires on the West Coast in the fall of 2020.

The effects of climate change are already with us and are proving extremely costly. Carbon fee and dividend legislation is our best option for moving quickly on this issue in a way that is bipartisan, revenue-neutral and effective. Moreover, economists agree that it will create jobs in the millions and is the most efficient option (Hook 2019).

If we don't act now, the costs – to human life, the environment *and* the economy – will only accumulate and continue to devastate. The harm that we are doing to our children's generation is unconscionable, but we have the option to be agents of change and to create a clean 21st-century economy that works for all. For this reason I urge you to pledge support for a carbon fee and dividend.

Thank you,

Melissa Kostelecky

Hook, Lesley. 2019. "Surge in US Economists' Support for Carbon Tax to Tackle Emissions." *Financial Times*, February 17, 2019. Accessed February 26, 2021. <https://www.ft.com/content/fa0815fe-3299-11e9-bd3a-8b2a211d90d5>.