RESOLUTION URGING THE BRIGHTON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TO DEVELOP A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN AND REQUEST THAT CONGRESS PASS REVENUE NEUTRAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION TO HELP SLOW CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, America is a great nation and has a proud heritage of addressing humanity's most pressing problems; and

WHEREAS, there is a broad scientific consensus among climate scientists that human activities, contributing to increases in greenhouse gas emissions, are the dominant cause of climate change; and

WHEREAS human caused climate change is one of the greatest challenges faced by humanity; and

WHEREAS, we believe that climate change is not a partisan nor political issue and that local, state, and national policies should be guided by the best available science; and,

WHEREAS, children represent a particularly vulnerable group because greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere will continue to accumulate over the coming decades and will profoundly impact our current students throughout their lives, as well as the lives of future generations; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a social justice and equity issue. While climate change impacts *all* people and disproportionately impacts *all* young people and future generations, it disproportionately affects people of color and people in poverty, thereby exacerbating existing inequities and limiting equality of opportunity which is a foundational aspiration for modern America; and

WHEREAS, the global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing climate change calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions and all elected leaders; and

WHEREAS, national and state elected leaders working in a bipartisan fashion to enact carbon pricing policies could substantially reduce or eliminate net human-made greenhouse gas emissions, thereby protecting our current and future students; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation mitigates and protects all Americans from the effects of climate change, and is a catalyst to creating a sustainable clean energy economy; and

WHEREAS, the House Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus is a legislative group in the House of Representatives dedicated to mitigating climate risks and taking definitive legislative action to combat this issue; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Brighton High School Student Council officially requests that the Brighton Central School District School Board pass a strong climate action resolution doing the following three things:

- 1. Declaring climate change as a generational justice and human rights issue;
- 2. Clearly articulating the non-partisan political will for Congress to enact a common-sense national climate policy such as a revenue neutral carbon fee and dividend;
- 3. Celebrating and expanding school district sustainability efforts and responses to climate change by developing a *Climate Action Plan* (CAP) addressing the following areas:
 - a. Buildings and Grounds
 - b. Operations and Transportation
 - c. Food Service
 - d. Direct Greenhouse Gas Measurements and Goals for carbon neutrality
 - e. Climate Literacy and Climate Advocacy in the curriculum and graduation requirements
 - f. Institutional Advocacy for Climate Action
 - g. Partnerships with local, regional, state, and national agencies and organizations to advance our response to climate change

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Brighton High School Student Council on its own behalf, also:

- 1. Declares climate change to be a generational justice and human rights issue;
- 2. Endorses equitable and effective state and national carbon pricing policies and calls on our federal government to implement a comprehensive climate change policy including a carbon fee and dividend;
- 3. Encourages Representative Morelle of the 25th district of NYS to join the House Climate Solutions Caucus;
- 4. Calls on all youth, all adults, and all institutions to advocate for and to take climate action in order to protect our generation and future generations;

- 5. Encourages our student councils, school district board, Monroe County School Boards Association, NYS School Board Association, NYS Board of Regents, and the board of the National School Board Association all pass climate action resolutions similar to ours, calling on Congress to enact swift, fair, and effective climate policies in order to protect current and future students;
- Encourages the following Congresspeople to speak up and fight for solutions to the climate crisis:
 - a. Senator Charles Schumer
 - b. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
 - c. Representative Joseph Morelle
- 7. Celebrates existing Brighton School District sustainability initiatives such as:
 - a. The Environmental Committee and its work
 - b. The Zero Waste initiative
 - c. The yearly Brighton Clean Sweep
 - d. The Lorax Club's work to plant trees around Brighton High School
- 8. Encourages our own student council officers, teachers, school board members, and superintendent to connect with local, state, and federal jurisdictions and elected leaders to engage in non-partisan advocacy for science-based policies to restore the climate;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Brighton High School Student Council Secretary is hereby directed to transmit official copies of this resolution to Schools for Climate Action campaign, local Citizens' Climate Lobby chapter, BCSD School Board, school administration, all New York State members of Congress, the Climate Solutions Caucus, school district superintendent, Monroe County School Boards Association, NYS School Board Association, NYS Board of Regents, and the National School Board Association.

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