

I strongly support SJM5 which will urge Congress to support a carbon fee and dividend approach to addressing climate change. As laid out in the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act introduced in the last Congress, a price on carbon which is returned to the American people in the form of a dividend, will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% in just 12 years.

With a single fee, polluters will be incentivized to switch to alternative energy sources and the evenly distributed dividend will help cover the rise in fuel costs for everyone; making the bottom two-thirds of the population whole and costing the upper echelons only a fraction of their wealth.

Global warming is having significant impacts on the viability of the biosphere; a rise above 2 degrees Celsius is seen by most climate scientists as resulting in catastrophic consequences for plants, animals and humans. The increase in the number and intensity of catastrophic occurrences such as heat waves, droughts, wildfires, hurricanes, flooding, and ice storms, as well as the melting of the polar ice, the rise of sea levels, and the acidification of the oceans, all point to a cataclysmic change to our environment.

In addition, according to John Kerry, the Special Envoy for the Climate, "Climate change is a threat multiplier for pandemic diseases and zoonotic diseases – 70 percent of all human infections -- are impacted by climate change and its effect on animal migrations and habitats."

Pricing carbon is bi-partisan, economic, effective and has popular support. Please support SJM5 because, although the best time to address global warning was forty years ago, the second-best time is NOW.