

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO-2022-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ENACT THE CLEAN COMPETITION ACT, S. 4355.

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2022, the Clean Competition Act (S. 4355) was introduced by U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and others to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a carbon border adjustment based on carbon intensity; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Competition Act would impose a carbon border adjustment on energy intensive imports, while incentivizing decarbonization of domestic manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, starting in 2024, the adjustment would apply to energy intensive industries such as fossil fuels, refined petroleum products, iron and steel, aluminum, glass, and ethanol, and would later be expanded to include additional goods and products; and

WHEREAS, American manufacturers are on average less carbon intensive than most of their foreign competitors, for example, the U.S. economy is almost 50 percent less carbon intensive than its trading partners, whereas the Chinese economy is more than three times as carbon intensive as the U.S., and India is almost four times as carbon intensive; and

WHEREAS, a carbon border adjustment mechanism would provide the economic incentive and leverage needed to invest in clean energy, and to encourage other countries to do the same, particularly those that do not have a carbon emissions reduction program analogous to that of the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, U.S. climate policy should reward more efficient U.S. manufacturers and penalize high carbon polluting imports as nearly every U.S. sector enjoys a carbon advantage over most key trading partners; and

WHEREAS, presently the environmental, health, and social costs of carbon emissions are not included in prices paid for fossil fuels, but rather these externalized costs are borne directly and indirectly by all Americans and global citizens; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being sound economic policy designed to give American companies a leg up in the global marketplace, a carbon border adjustment would help address climate change and lower carbon emissions around the world; and

WHEREAS, according to conservative estimates, the world's climate scientists state that to achieve climate stabilization and avoid cataclysmic climate change, emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be brought to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the European Union (“EU”) adopted a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (“CBAM”) which targets imports of carbon-intensive products, in full compliance with international trade rules, to prevent offsetting the EU’s greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts through imports of products manufactured in non-EU countries, where climate change policies are less ambitious than in the European Union; and

WHEREAS, the EU’s CBAM will require reporting to begin in 2023 with full implementation in 2027; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2021, the City Commission passed Resolution 2021-30, urging Congress to pass the Carbon Dividend Act; and

WHEREAS, the Commission also passed Ordinance 2016-30, establishing the City’s “Buy American” procurement preference; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission seeks to build upon its climate advocacy and commitment to reducing carbon emissions by urging Congress to support the Clean Competition Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:

SECTION 1. That the foregoing "Whereas" clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. That City urges the United States Congress to enact without delay the Clean Competition Act, S. 4335.

SECTION 3. That the City Clerk is directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each U.S. Senator and Representative from the State of Florida in the Congress of the United States and to Miami-Dade County, and neighboring municipalities urging that they pass similar resolutions.

SECTION 4. That this Resolution shall become effective upon the date of its passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWENTY-EIGHTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, A.D., 2022.

(Moved: / Seconded:)
(Yeas:)
(Unanimous: 5-0 Vote)
(Agenda Item:G-1)

APPROVED:

VINCE LAGO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

BILLY Y. URQUIA
CITY CLERK

MIRIAM SOLER RAMOS
CITY ATTORNEY