

Community Request #1 - From Lee Heller

April 28, 2016

Councilmember Bendy White, Chair
Councilmember Gregg Hart
Councilmember Frank Hotchkiss
Council Committee on Legislation
Santa Barbara City Council
PO Box 1990
Santa Barbara CA 93102-1990

Dear Chair White and Councilmembers Hart and Hotchkiss,

I am writing to request that the Legislative Committee, acting on behalf of the Santa Barbara City Council, take a support position on AB 1825.

This important piece of legislation would change the state's definition of 'vicious dog' in one crucial way: it would eliminate the outdated and inaccurate imposition of that label on any dog seized as part of a dog fighting operation in which the charged party is convicted. Section 31603 (a) of Division 14 of the Food and Agricultural Code mandates that the label of "vicious dog" be automatically applied to "[a]ny dog seized under Section 599aa of the Penal Code and upon the sustaining of a conviction of the owner or keeper under subdivision (a) of Section 597.5 of the Penal Code." Under this requirement, local shelters are given no latitude to evaluate whether or not these victims actually pose any risk to public safety. It doesn't matter if the dog seized is an eight week old puppy, a bait dog, a stolen pet, a breeding mother dog, or a dog who will thrive in a loving home.

Many dogs seized in connection with animal fighting do not pose any risk to other dogs or humans and have gone on to live healthy, happy lives. In the high profile case of dogs seized from the property of NFL player Michael Vick, 48 of 49 seized dogs were evaluated positively –some becoming therapy or service dogs. None of those dogs have been involved in incidents where when unprovoked caused severe injury or death of a human (the "vicious for cause" standard under California law).

AB 1825 would restore control to local municipalities to determine what constitutes vicious behavior, and to rely on local personnel to assess individual animals based on conduct, not on arbitrary definitions unsupported by facts. Trained shelter personnel routinely evaluate all incoming dogs for their suitability for adoption, placement with a rescue organization or another humane disposition. Stray dogs arrive at shelters with no known history and are not presumed to pose a risk – they are evaluated individually using techniques developed over years by animal sheltering professionals. AB 1825 would allow local shelters and animal control staff to provide seized canine victims of animal fighting with the same individual health and behavioral assessments as other dogs which they impound.

AB 1825 has already been endorsed by Santa Barbara County, the City and County of San Francisco, the Cities of Sacramento and Stockton, Santa Clara County, San Luis Obispo County, and the California Animal Control Directors Association, among others.

Santa Barbara's endorsement of this legislation would help to advance the cause of local control of decisions about the disposition of animals seized by animal control.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Lee E. Heller, Ph.D., J.D.
P.O. Box 1592
Summerland CA 93067
lee@leeheller.net
805-451-5787



COALITION AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

A Santa Barbara County Coalition

May 10, 2016

The Santa Barbara City Council Committee on Legislation
Chair: Bendy White, Committee Members, Gregg Hart and Frank Hotchkiss
Santa Barbara City Hall
P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990

To the Committee:

The Coalition Against Gun Violence is requesting a City of Santa Barbara Resolution that will endorse the following: Support the Safety for All (SFA) Initiative which includes the following provisions:

- *Outlaws possession of large-capacity magazines or 11 rounds or more.
- *Requires background checks at point of sale and prohibits sale of ammunition to persons convicted of a felony, a violent misdemeanor, has a restraining order or has been declared dangerously mentally ill.
- *Legislation that requires firearm owners to notify law enforcement if their firearm has been lost or stolen.
- *Mandates that California share data with the FBI/NICS (National Instant Background Check System).

California has been a leader in adopting effective, common sense gun safety laws to save lives and increase public safety, but the state still has loopholes in its laws that allow too many dangerous individuals to obtain firearms and commit acts of violence.

We know that more than 117,000 Americans were killed or injured by guns in 2013, including nearly 7,500 minors, and 8,935 Californians, and there have been at least 160 school shootings in America, since the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012.

As we all know, Santa Barbara, like any other American city is not immune to gun violence. We have suffered through two mass shootings at the Goleta Post Office and Isla Vista and most recently the shooting of Dr. Henry Han and his family.

Attached is a model resolution for your perusal and a list of endorsements for the SFA Initiative by elected officials, including Mayor Schneider, cities and organizations. You may add the Coalition Against Gun Violence to that list. We hope the Committee and the City of Santa Barbara will see fit to add Santa Barbara's name to that list.

Respectfully,

Toni Wellen, Chair

Coalition Against Gun Violence

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE CITY/COUNTY OF _____ IN SUPPORT OF
THE “SAFETY FOR ALL ACT OF 2016” BALLOT INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, more than 117,000 Americans were killed or injured by guns in 2013, including nearly 7,500 minors, and 8,935 Californians; and,

WHEREAS, there have been at least 160 school shootings in America since the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012; and,

WHEREAS, California has been a leader in adopting effective, common sense gun safety laws to save lives and increase public safety, but the state still has loopholes in its laws that allow too many dangerous individuals to obtain firearms and commit acts of violence; and

WHEREAS, California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom introduced a 2016 ballot measure known as the “Safety for All Act of 2016,” which is a package of common sense reforms to protect our families and communities from gun violence; and,

WHEREAS, this initiative would help keep ammunition from falling into dangerous hands by requiring ammunition sellers to be licensed, to conduct background checks on purchasers and employees, and to report records of ammunition sales and lost or stolen ammunition to law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, this initiative would strengthen oversight of firearm dealers by requiring them to conduct employee background checks and report lost or stolen ammunition, as well as firearms; and,

WHEREAS, this initiative would help protect our city from mass shootings by making it illegal to possess the kinds of military-style, large-capacity ammunition magazines that enable mass killings, and by providing for the legal disposal of these magazines; and,

WHEREAS, this initiative would help enforce existing gun laws by implementing a clear process for those convicted of a felony or other firearm-prohibiting crime to relinquish their firearms after conviction; and,

WHEREAS, this initiative would help law enforcement break up gun trafficking rings and return lost or stolen firearms to their lawful owners by requiring individuals to notify law enforcement if their firearm has been lost or stolen; and,

WHEREAS, the initiative would ensure that California law enforcement shares crucial data with the FBI’s Background Check System; and,

WHEREAS, recent public polls show the vast majority of Californians support all of these proposals to close loopholes and strengthen our state's gun safety laws; and,

WHEREAS, it is essential for the public safety of the people of _____ to support effective and reasonable reforms to protect our community from gun violence; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council/Board of Supervisors of _____ hereby supports the "Safety for All Act" ballot initiative.

SAFETY FOR ALL

ENDORSEMENTS

Elected Officials

- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
- California Secretary of State Alex Padilla
- Assembly Speaker Emeritus Toni Atkins
- Mayor Sam Liccardo, San Jose
- Mayor Libby Schaaf, Oakland
- Mayor Ed Lee, San Francisco
- Mayor Helene Schneider, Santa Barbara
- Mayor Gary Phillips, San Rafael
- Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Union City
- Mayor Sue Digre, Pacifica
- Mayor Erin Tollini, Tiburon
- Mayor Barry Chang, Cupertino
- Mayor Jim Ruane, San Bruno
- Mayor Bill Kampe, Pacific Grove
- Mayor Pete Sanchez, Suisun City
- Mayor Donna Rutherford, East Palo Alto
- Mayor Catherine Way, Larkspur
- Mayor Lindsey Horvath, West Hollywood
- Assemblymember Evan Low, 28th Assembly District (Silicon Valley)
- Assemblymember Matthew Dababneh, 45th Assembly District (Encino)

Cities

- The City of Belvedere
- The City of Berkeley
- The City of Cupertino
- The City of East Palo Alto
- The City of Oakland
- The City of Tiburon
- The City of West Hollywood

Organizations

- Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence (Partner)
- California Democratic Party
- Stop Our Shootings

Community Request #3 - From John Kelley and Dennis Thompson, Citizen's Climate Lobby

May 2, 2016

Santa Barbara City Council, Committee on Legislation
Chair Bendy White, and Committee Members Greg Hart and Frank Hotchkiss
City Hall, P.O. Box 1990, Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990

Re: Revenue-Neutral Carbon Fee-and-Dividend Legislation

Dear Legislative Committee Members,

The Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) is a national nonpartisan, volunteer-based organization that advocates for revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend legislation. An independent economic study that illustrates the potential benefits of this policy is attached. The members of the Santa Barbara Chapter of CCL urge you to take action in support of this policy. We have two specific requests:

First, that you add the following statement to the City's Legislative Platform, under Environmental Quality, Climate Protection: "Support revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend legislation in order to strengthen the economy, protect families, reduce air pollution, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

Second, that you recommend a City Council resolution urging the U.S. Congress to enact national revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend legislation. Numerous municipalities around our country, including the nearby City of San Luis Obispo, have adopted similar resolutions. We have attached the resolution from San Luis Obispo for reference.

The proposed resolution would be consistent with the following statement in the City's 2015 Legislative Platform, under Environmental Quality, Climate Protection: "Support legislation and measures that encourage renewable energy generation, facilitate renewable resource development, and provide incentives for small renewable generation projects."

We welcome your questions and comments regarding this policy. Thank you for considering our requests.

Sincerely,
Members of the Santa Barbara Chapter of CCL
Contact: John D. Kelley, jdkaia@cox.net, 963-1013

Cc: Mayor Helene Schneider and Council Members: Randy Rowse, Cathy Murillo, and Jason Dominguez

RESOLUTION NO. 10701 (2016 SERIES)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA, REGARDING THE NATIONAL REVENUE-NEUTRAL CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND PROGRAM

WHEREAS, having determined that the Carbon Fee and Dividend legislative principles proposed by the non-partisan Citizens Climate Lobby, attached hereto as Exhibit A, would provide an efficient approach to shifting the incentives that keep the United States reliant on fossil fuel energy and would, thereby, help support the rapid deployment of cleaner energy alternatives; and

WHEREAS, having determined that this approach would be fair to everyone and would protect middle and low income households by providing them with a dividend (also known as a rebate) that, on average, would be higher than the increased costs for energy for two-thirds of all households (specifically the lowest income two-thirds) during the transition to cleaner energy; and

WHEREAS, per the non-partisan study by Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), this approach would ensure a substantial increase in private investment in cleaner energy options because they will become significantly less expensive relative to fossil fuels within a known time frame; and

WHEREAS, this approach would encourage consumers and businesses to keep their carbon footprint smaller while still ensuring that all households would be able to afford the energy they need during the transition to cleaner energy; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to respond to these challenges with a business minded focus, and

WHEREAS, having determined that early adoption of the National Revenue Neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend Legislation in the United States would grow our economy, add nearly two million jobs, help make us a world leader in cleaner-energy technology, and help establish the United States as a leader in future global climate negotiations; and

WHEREAS, the national revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend has already garnered widespread support from Republicans as well as Democrats as evidenced by recent op-eds and public statements in 2015 by prominent political leaders.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of San Luis Obispo that the City Council requests that the United States Congress immediately enact legislation and the United States President sign into law a national revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend program, as provided for in Exhibit A, in order to protect the economy and the climate for future generations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of San Luis Obispo directs the Mayor to send a letter no later than 30 days after passage of this Resolution by the San Luis Obispo City Council to all Mayors and City Councils, County Boards of Supervisors, School Boards, and State and Federal legislators in San Luis Obispo, Monterey and Santa Barbara Counties, the Governor of California, and the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments urging support for a National Revenue Neutral Fee and Dividend Act and urging them to adopt a resolution in Favor of National Revenue-Neutral National Carbon Fee and Dividend Legislation.

Upon motion of Council Member Ashbaugh, seconded by Council Member Christianson, and on the following roll call vote:

AYES: Council Members Ashbaugh, Christianson and Rivoire,
Vice Mayor Carpenter and Mayor Marx
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

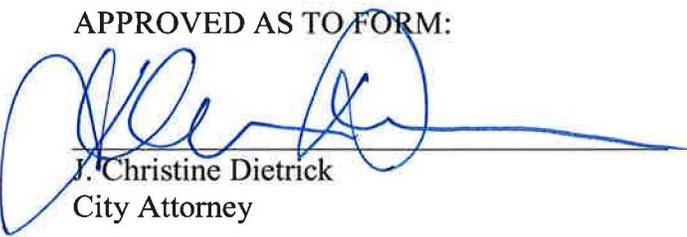
The foregoing resolution was adopted this 15th day of March, 2016.



Mayor Jan Marx

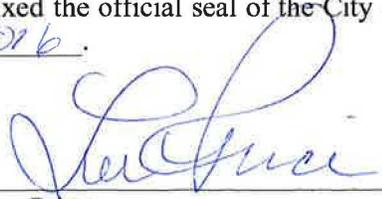
ATTEST:


Lee Price
Interim City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


J. Christine Dietrick
City Attorney

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the City of San Luis Obispo, California, this 27th day of March, 2016.



Lee Price
Interim City Clerk

APPENDIX A
To the City of San Luis Obispo Resolution in Favor of
National Revenue-Neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend Legislation

Findings:

1. Causation: there is a consensus^{1, 2} among climate scientists, domestic and international science bodies such as the National Academy of Sciences and the International Panel on Climate Change and the World Meteorological Organization (IPCC, WMO), that greenhouse gas emissions from human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels are driving the current rise in global temperatures and climate change,³
2. Mitigation (Return to 350 ppm or below): the weight of scientific evidence also indicates that a return from the current concentration of more than 400 parts per million ("ppm") of carbon dioxide ("CO₂") in the atmosphere to 350 ppm CO₂ or less is necessary to slow or stop the rise in global temperatures,⁴
3. Endangerment: further increases in global temperatures pose imminent and substantial dangers to human health⁵, the natural environment⁶, the economy⁷, national security⁸, and an unacceptable risk of medium and long-term future harm⁹,
 - a. Climate change caused by global warming-related greenhouse gas emissions including CO₂ already is leading to large-scale problems including increasing acidity of oceans and rising sea levels; more frequent, extreme, and damaging weather events such as heat waves, storms, heavy rainfall and flooding, and droughts; more frequent and intense wildfires; disrupted ecosystems affecting biodiversity and food production; and an increase in heat-related deaths¹⁰; and
 - b. We are approaching a dangerous threshold whereby, if it is crossed, humans will no longer be able to influence the course of future global warming, as tropical forests, peat bogs, permafrost and the oceans¹¹ switch from absorbing carbon to releasing it; and
4. Local effects on agriculture: the following effects of climate change are likely to occur if we do not reduce our CO₂ emissions to 350 ppm by 2050:
 - a. Bay Area and Central Coast temperatures are predicted to rise significantly. The number of days over 95° is expected to increase from an average of 12 per year today to 20-29 by 2050 and 32-65 by 2100,¹²
 - b. Given increased heat waves, droughts and higher temperatures¹³, California farmers will face an increasingly uncertain future, where current crops may fail and water may be even more scarce,^{14, 15, 16}
 - c. If heat-trapping emissions continue to rise at today's levels the snowpack in the Sierra Nevada is likely to decline as much as 40% from historical levels by 2050 and as much as 90% by 2100, thus severely reducing the availability of water in summer. However if we make significant emissions reductions the decline by 2050 could be as little as 12%.¹⁷
 - d. Two thirds of California's 2,400 endemic plants could lose more than 80% of their current ranges if climate change worsens,¹⁸
 - e. The number of chilling hours at the end of this century is expected to be half or less than during the 20th century such that many currently lucrative crops will no longer be commercially viable in large areas of California,^{19, 20, 21}

- f. We can expect a range expansion and rapid increase in populations of insects already present and the arrival of new insect pests to newly warmer regions amid ecosystem changes thus negatively affecting agriculture and health,^{22, 23}
5. The present costs of fossil fuels are externalized: Presently the environmental, health, and social costs of CO2 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
6. Co-Benefits: the measures proposed in this legislation will benefit the economy, human health, the environment, and national security, even without consideration of global temperatures, by correcting market distortions, reducing non-greenhouse-gas pollutants, reducing the outflow of dollars to oil-producing countries, and improving energy security of the United States,²⁴
7. Benefits of Carbon Fees: phased-in carbon fees on greenhouse gas emissions are (1) the most efficient, transparent, and enforceable mechanism to drive an effective and fair transition to a domestic-energy economy, (2) will stimulate investment in alternative-energy technologies, and (3) will give all businesses powerful incentives to increase their energy-efficiency and reduce their carbon footprints in order to remain competitive,²⁵
8. Equal Monthly Per-Person Dividends: monthly dividends (or “rebates”) from carbon fees paid equally to every American household will stimulate the American economy and help ensure that families and individuals can afford greenhouse gas-free energy,

Therefore the National Revenue Fee and Dividend Act²⁶ contains the following elements:

1. Collection of Carbon Fees/Carbon Fee Trust Fund: The Act would impose a carbon fee on all fossil fuels and other greenhouse gases at the point where they first enter the economy. The fee shall be collected by the Treasury Department. The fee on that date shall be \$15 per ton of CO2 equivalent emissions and result in equal charges for each ton of CO2 equivalent emissions potential in each type of fuel or greenhouse gas. The Department of Energy shall propose and promulgate regulations setting forth CO2 equivalent fees for other greenhouse gases including at a minimum methane²⁷, nitrous oxide, sulfur hexafluoride, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons, and nitrogen trifluoride. The Treasury shall also collect the fees imposed upon the other greenhouse gases. All fees are to be placed in the Carbon Fees Trust Fund and be rebated 100% to American households as outlined below.
2. Emissions Reduction Targets: To align US emissions with the physical constraints identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to avoid irreversible climate change, the yearly increase in carbon fees including other greenhouse gases, shall be at least \$10 per ton of CO2 equivalent each year. Annually, the Department of Energy shall determine whether an increase larger than \$10 per ton per year is needed to achieve program goals. Yearly price increases of at least \$10 per year shall continue until total U.S. CO2-equivalent emissions have been reduced to 10% of U.S. CO2-equivalent emissions in 1990.
3. Equal Per-Person Monthly Dividend Payments: Equal monthly per-person dividend payments shall be made to all American households (½ payment per child under 18 years old, with a limit of 2 children per family) each month. The total value of all monthly dividend payments shall represent 100% of the total carbon fees collected per month.
4. Border Adjustments: In order to ensure that U.S.-made goods can remain competitive at home and abroad and to provide an additional incentive for international adoptions of carbon fees, Carbon-Fee Equivalent Tariffs shall be charged for goods entering the U.S. from countries without comparable Carbon Fees/Carbon Pricing. Carbon-Fee-Equivalent Rebates shall be used to reduce the price of exports to such countries and to ensure that U.S. goods can remain

competitive in those countries. The Department of Commerce will determine rebate amounts and exemptions if any.

-
- ¹ Anderegg, William R. L. et al. “Expert Credibility in Climate Change.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 107.27 (2010): 12107–12109. www.pnas.org.
- ² Doran, Peter T., and Maggie Kendall Zimmerman. “Examining the Scientific Consensus on Climate Change.” *Eos, Transactions American Geophysical Union* 90.3 (2009): 22. *CrossRef*.
- ³ *IPCC, 2013: Summary for Policymakers*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2013. Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- ⁴ Hansen, J. et al. “Target Atmospheric CO₂: Where Should Humanity Aim?” *The Open Atmospheric Science Journal* 2.1 (2008): 217–231. arXiv.org.
- ⁵ McMichael, Anthony J, Rosalie E Woodruff, and Simon Hales. “Climate Change and Human Health: Present and Future Risks.” *The Lancet* 367.9513 (2006): 859–869. *CrossRef*.
- ⁶ Hughes, I. “Biological Consequences of Global Warming: Is the Signal Already Apparent?” *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 15.2 (2000): 56–61.
- ⁷ Nordhaus, William D. “A Review of the ‘Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change.’” *Journal of Economic Literature* 45.3 (2007): 686–702
- ⁸ Hagel, Chuck. *Department of Defense: 2014 Climate Change Adaptation Roadmap*. Alexandria, VA: Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment, 2014.
- ⁹ Borgerson, Scott G. “Arctic Meltdown.” *Foreign Affairs* Apr. 2008. *Foreign Affairs*.
- ¹⁰ *IPCC, 2013: Summary for Policymakers*.
- ¹¹ Archer, David, Bruce Buffett, and Victor Brovkin. “Ocean Methane Hydrates as a Slow Tipping Point in the Global Carbon Cycle.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 106.49 (2009): 20596–20601. www.pnas.org.
- ¹² From Boom to Bust? Climate Risk in the Golden State, Risky Business Project, March 20, 2015, <http://www.georgetownclimate.org/resources/from-boom-to-bust-climate-risk-in-the-golden-state>
- ¹³ Moser, Susanne, Julia Ekstrom, and Guido Franco. *Our Changing Climate 2012 - Vulnerability & Adaptation to the Increasing Risks from Climate Change in California - A Summary Report on the Third Assessment*. California Climate Change Center, 2012.

-
- ¹⁴ Gleick, Peter H. *Water -- the Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change for the Water Resources of the United States*. Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security, 2000. agris.fao.org.
- ¹⁵ Joyce, B. et al. *Climate Change Impacts on Water Supply and Agricultural Water Management in California's Western San Joaquin Valley, and Potential Adaptation Strategies*. California Climate Change Center, 2009.
- ¹⁶ Purkey, D. R. et al. "Robust Analysis of Future Climate Change Impacts on Water for Agriculture and Other Sectors: A Case Study in the Sacramento Valley." *Climatic Change* 87.1 (2007): 109–122. link.springer.com.
- ¹⁷ Cayan, Dan et al. *Climate Change Scenarios and Sea Level Rise Estimates for the California 2009 Climate Change Scenarios Assessment*. California Climate Change Center, 2009.
- ¹⁸ Meadows, Robin. "UC Scientists Help California Prepare for Climate Change" in California Agriculture." *California Agriculture* 63.2 (2009): 56–58.
- ¹⁹ Weare, Bryan C. "How Will Changes in Global Climate Influence California?" *California Agriculture* 63.2 (2009): 59–66.
- ²⁰ Baldocchi, Dennis, and Simon Wong. "Accumulated Winter Chill Is Decreasing in the Fruit Growing Regions of California." *Climatic Change* 87.1 (2007): 153–166. link.springer.com.
- ²¹ Luedeling, Eike, Minghua Zhang, and Evan H. Girvetz. "Climatic Changes Lead to Declining Winter Chill for Fruit and Nut Trees in California during 1950–2099." *PLoS ONE* 4.7 (2009): e6166. *PLoS Journals*.
- ²² Trumble, John T., and Casey D. Butler. "Climate Change Will Exacerbate California's Insect Pest Problems." *California Agriculture* 63.2 (2009): 73–78.
- ²³ Bale, Jeffery S. et al. "Herbivory in Global Climate Change Research: Direct Effects of Rising Temperature on Insect Herbivores." *Global Change Biology* 8.1 (2002): 1–16. *Wiley Online Library*.
- ²⁴ Nystrom, Scott, and Patrick Luckow. *The Economic, Climate, Fiscal, Power, and Demographic Impact of a National Fee-and-Dividend Carbon Tax*. Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) and Synapse Energy Economics, Inc., 2014.
- ²⁵ Nystrom, Scott, and Patrick Luckow (REMI study)
- ²⁶ "Carbon Fee and Dividend." *Citizens' Climate Lobby*. N.p., n.d. <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/carbon-fee-and-dividend/>. 12 Apr. 2015.
- ²⁷ Methane is a much more potent greenhouse gas than CO₂ with both direct and indirect effects contributing to warming. It is therefore important to place a fee on methane that leaks to the

atmosphere. Some of this leakage will occur after the fee has been assessed on methane under the assumption that it will be burned to yield the less potent CO₂. To ensure the integrity of the program and that markets receive accurate information with regard to the climate forcings caused by various fossil fuels, the carbon fee shall be assessed on such leaked methane at a rate commensurate with the global warming potential (“GWP”) of methane including both its direct and indirect effects. Given the importance of tipping points in the climate system, the 20-year GWP of methane shall be used to assess the fee, and not the 100-year GWP. As proper accounting for such leakage is necessary for honest assessment of progress towards program goals, reasonable steps to assess the rate of methane leakage shall be implemented, and leaked methane shall be priced accordingly. The entity responsible for the leaked methane shall be responsible for paying the fee.

Ezinne Meremikwu

UCEN Rd, Isla Vista, CA 93117
ezinnemeremikwu@umail.ucsb.edu (818) 304-1819

Date: 5/24/16

Santa Barbara City Council
Legislative Committee
735 Anacapa St,
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Chair Bendy White, Councilmembers Gregg Hart and Frank Hotchkiss,

Please consider adding the following statements to the City of Santa Barbara 2016 Legislative Platform. Please also see our legislative platform attached.

Support legislation reinforcing the ability of local voters to finance local elections.

Support legislation ensuring candidates' policy goals are reasonably consistent with that of their respective constituents.

Oppose campaign financing practices that are disproportionately influenced by either a minority of the local constituency or non-district donors.

Oppose legislation that allows any entity from undermining or circumventing the democratic process.

Support legislation promoting equal opportunity/ability amongst all constituents within a district to finance or take part in local campaigns.

Support legislation preventing undue financial or political influence of non-voting actors.

Sincerely,

Ezinne Meremikwu
UCSB Student Intern for California Public Interest Group, CalPIRG

Attachment to 5/24/2016 letter to City of Santa Barbara Legislative Committee**Who We Are:**

CALPIRG is a statewide student-funded, student-run and student-directed nonprofit activist grassroots organization started by students in the 1970's who saw problematic issues in their community and wanted to actively find solutions to them. When powerful companies and special interests threaten our public health, pollute our air and water or rip off consumers CALPIRG stands up for the public. CALPIRG is student run and directed organization by having a student board of directors who essentially make plans that reflects what students as citizens want to see changed now and something we can make an impact on. The student- funding acquired goes to hiring professional staff who train students how to do effective campaigning and organize.

A few years ago CALPIRG increased student financial aid by \$36 billion. Last year we banned plastic bags all across California. Our campaign Stopping the Overuse of Antibiotics on Factory Farms we got McDonalds to stop using chicken raised with antibiotics, and we got Subway to stop using all meat raised on antibiotics. This year, CALPIRG's Statewide Go Solar Campaign helped pass the most comprehensive solar legislation ever in the entire nation, SB 350.

We are able to be effective because we represent the interests of 25,000 dues paying student members from across the state.

Problem with Citizens United:

In fall of 2014, our nation held the most expensive midterm election in its history. This explosion of spending was not the result of an unprecedented tide of public engagement in campaigns – indeed, voter turnout was at its lowest level since World War II. Instead, it reflected the continuing rise of big money and mega-donors in our elections, a trend accelerated by the Supreme Court's 2010 *Citizens United* ruling. Since the Supreme Court Decision in 2010 in support of Citizens United money's influence on political has skyrocketed. Big corporations and wealthy individuals can drown the voices of the masses by using their money to influence who runs and wins elections.

Our democracy works best when it lives up to the principle of one person, one vote, and when the strength of a citizen's voice doesn't depend on the size of their wallet. Yet, in the last few years we have seen the voices of average citizens increasingly drowned out by a flood of big money, as our representatives become increasingly dependent on large donors and Super PAC backing. In fact, in the 2012 election the top 32 donors to Super PACs, giving an average of \$9.9 million each, contributed as much as all 3.7 million small donors to President Obama and Mitt Romney combined.

In a recent CALPIRG and Demos analysis of competitive House races in the 2014 midterms, we found the top two vote-getters in the 25 most competitive districts got more than 86 percent of their campaign funds from donors giving large contributions of \$200 or more. Seven of them relied on big donors for more than 95 percent of their individual contributions.

The grossly disproportionate spending on elections from a small part of the population not only undermines the political power of most Americans, it also distorts the priorities of candidates by

making fundraising from out-of-district big donors more important and securing the support of ordinary constituents less important. An unlimited money system forces candidates to spend time courting those wealthy individuals and interests, rather than thinking about the needs of their constituents. The result is that on issue after issue, like the environment or public health, politicians often favor the donors who funded their campaigns over the people they're elected to represent.

This ultimately undermines our democracy and eventually we must pass a constitutional amendment allowing for sensible limits on big contributions must be passed to address this immense problem.

Local Relevance:

A constitutional amendment will take years and in the meantime we must find other ways to counteract the influence of big money in our elections. Money in politics was an issue that began at the federal level but now affects politics at every level of government.

Across the country, we have seen strong support for getting big money out of politics that cuts across party lines. In 2012, Over 70% of voters approved measures in Montana and Colorado directing their members of Congress to pass a constitutional amendment to get big money out of politics. In Colorado, it passed overwhelmingly in every single county, whether voters voted for Obama or Romney.

Americans understand the problem of big money in our elections and are looking for solutions. A recent [NY Times/CBS poll](#) found that 85 percent of Americans think the system for funding campaign's needs 'fundamental changes' or that 'we need to totally rebuild it.' Meanwhile, a [Wall Street Journal/NBC](#) news poll released in June 2015 found that the role of big money in elections is a top concern voters have about the upcoming presidential election.

This is evidence that people care about this issue and it is easier for us to have an impact on it at the local level.

Furthermore, 16 states (including CA) and 50 cities within CA have already gone on record against Citizens United, now it's Santa Barbara's turn. (See the list in the footnotes) We pride ourselves on being progressive leaders but we are falling behind on this movement in CA.

We are asking the City Council of Santa Barbara to include these support and opposition statements, which are all for being against Citizens United on their legislative platform for spring 2016.

We know that Santa Barbarians overwhelming support this. We've collected close to 800 petitions from UCSB students, and are working to collect small business sign-on and build a coalition of students and Citizens across Santa Barbara.

Why this will be effective:

We know that such resolution and taking local action is effective, the best example is New York City's small donor empowerment system. According to a recent study in the Election Law

Journal, matching funds have increased the proportional role of small donors as well as the number of small donors who participate in the system. In 2009, which was the first year the match was fully in effect, all but two of the 51 winning city council candidates used the program, and between 1997 (when the match was only 1:1) and 2009 (when it increased to 6:1), the small donor pool increased by 40%.

Besides bringing more small donors into the system, these programs have helped candidates raise significant amounts of money, changing their fundraising strategies away from chasing big checks and towards chasing small donors. For example, in the 2013 city council campaign in New York City, small donors were responsible for 61% of participating candidates' funds (when the match is included). In contrast, nonparticipating candidates got only 19% of their money from small donors, and 53% from donors who gave \$1,000 or more. So candidates are seeing that they can raise the money they need to win without having to chase down \$1,000 checks.

Other local victories:

- In the Fall of 2014, Maryland PIRG helped get the County Council in **Montgomery County** to enact a small donor program
- In February, Illinois PIRG helped to pass a non-binding advisory ballot measure calling for a small donor empowerment system in **Chicago**. It was overwhelmingly approved by nearly 80 percent of voters.
- In **Seattle**, WashPIRG helped gather signatures to put a small donor program on the ballot in 2015

Advocating for Santa Barbara City Council to include these support and opposition statements their legislative platform, is the first step to creating a healthier, more vibrant democracy where the voices and interests of ordinary Americans are amplified above the roar of special interest influence.