



## ***State & Commerce Committee - Board of Representatives***

Lindsey Miller, Chair

Robert Roqueta, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, January 24, 2019

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Democratic Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The State & Commerce Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Miller and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Graziosi and Roqueta. Absent or excused were Reps. Liebson, Mahoney, McGarry. Also present were Reps. de la Cruz, Jacobson, Kolenberg and McMullen; Tom Madden, Director, Economic Development; Maggie Molen, Citizens' Climate Lobby; and several members of the Citizens' Climate Lobby and the public.

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">SC30.017</a>	RESOLUTION; Urging the Federal Government to Pass Legislation in Support of a National Revenue Neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend in Order to Help Slow Climate Change. 10/31/18 – Submitted by Reps. Jacobson, Kolenberg, de la Cruz	Approved 3-0-1

Ms. Molen explained the resolution, and there was discussion.

- Studies show carbon footprint can be reduced by 40% in 12 years with a neutral carbon fee and dividend.
- Due to being close to the coastline Stamford is vulnerable to climate change.
- Stamford would be the first municipality in Connecticut to pass such a resolution, and can be a leader in advocating a national solution.
- This would be neutral revenue and returned to citizens in a dividend.
- Should there be a system of putting taxpayer money into the government only to have it given back?
- If taxpayers receive the money back, what is the incentive for behavior change?
- Something needs to be done now about climate change and this resolution is a good start, especially if Stamford is to continue being progressive as an environmentally friendly city.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:00:25

A motion to approve this resolution was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 3-0-1 (Reps. Roqueta, Adams and Graziosi in favor; Rep. Miller abstaining).

The Committee recessed at 7:31 p.m. and reconvened at 7:35 p.m.

<sup>2</sup>2. SC30.018                      REVIEW; Fiscal Requirements of the Economic                      Report Made  
Development Department and Opportunities for  
Process Improvements.  
01/09/19 – Submitted by Rep. Miller

Mr. Madden discussed the Office of Economic Development's strategies and projects, and there was discussion.

- Office of Economic Development implements strategies to bring people and companies to Stamford, and help promote job growth and retention.
- Marketing campaigns include advertorials about Stamford in national and international publications.
- Fairfield County Five is a group that promotes business events for Stamford, Fairfield, Greenwich, Norwalk and Westport and tries to attract companies to the area.
- Office of Economic Development has lobbyists that help track initiatives.
- Two websites have been developed: [www.ChooseStamford.com](http://www.ChooseStamford.com) and [www.DiscoverStamford.com](http://www.DiscoverStamford.com).
- Office of Economic Development maintains an extensive database of information, such as when corporate leases expire, and this helps to reach out to retain companies.
- Energy Improvement District project received \$1.4 million in incentives, and a \$214K bonus with EverSource by changing all lights in schools and the Government Center.
- Information about new apartment buildings and office buildings is tracked.
- Funds have been requested in the new budget for the addition of one position for website management.
- The Committee questioned what revenue has been generated in taxes from the new apartment buildings in the last 10 years?
- Mr. Madden will return to the Committee at another time to explain how the TIF districts work.

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lindsey Miller, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp: 00:35:34