Resolution endorsing a San Francisco Carbon Tax.

WHEREAS, In 2007 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released an assessment that stated “Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level”; and

WHEREAS, Sir Nicholas Stern, author of “The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change” has stated that “Policy to reduce emissions should be based on three essential elements: carbon pricing, technology policy, and removal of barriers to behavioral change.”; and

WHEREAS, In 2002, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 158-02 that called for the City to develop plans to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to 20% below 1990 levels by the year 2012; and

WHEREAS, The 2004 Climate Action Plan For San Francisco identifies measures to be implemented that address technology policy and behavior change strategies that will lead the city towards achieving its 2012 greenhouse gas target, but does not fully address carbon pricing; and

WHEREAS, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom announced in December 2007 his intention to pursue the development of local carbon taxes, which shift the tax burden from social positives such as job creation to the negative externality of greenhouse gas pollution; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Commission on the Environment supports the concept of mitigating transportation, waste and building energy carbon emissions through appropriate carbon taxes or other appropriate means; and
FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of the Environment work with the Board
of Supervisors, Mayor, concerned community groups and the public to develop carbon tax
options which can be brought back to this Commission for review and adoption.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Commission on the
Environment at its January 22, 2008 Meeting.

Monica Fish, Commission Secretary

VOTE: Approved (6-0 (1 Absent)
AYES: Commissioners Pelosi Jr., Gravanis, King, Martin, Rodriguez Heyman, Tuchow
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Wald