**[Name of Organization]**

**URGESTHE UNITED STATES CONGRESS**

**TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE [, AND TO ADDRESS IT**

**BY PUTTING A PRICE ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS]**

**[Name of Organization]** recognizes that:

* The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded in its 5th Assessment Report, Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis, that "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal" and "It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century"; and,
* The U.S. National Academy of Sciences has stated that "It is now more certain than ever, based on many lines of evidence, that humans are changing Earth's climate. The atmosphere and oceans have warmed, accompanied by sea-level rise, a strong decline in Arctic sea ice, and other climate-related changes."; and,
* The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reports that average global surface temperatures of the earth in 2016 were 0.99 °C above the 20th century average, the warmest since modern recordkeeping began; and,
* Conservative estimates by the world's climate scientists state that to achieve climate stabilization and avoid catastrophic impacts of climate change – including flooding of coastal cities, severe droughts acting as catalysts for war, mass extinction of plants and animals -- emissions of C02 and other greenhouse gases must be brought to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and,
* 195 nations, including the United States, have agreed pursuant to the Paris Accords to "Hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above preindustrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above preindustrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change"; and,
* Jewish tradition teaches us to protect the Earth for future generations (Midrash Kohelet Rabbah, 1 on Ecclesiastes 7:13); and,
* The Torah teaches of the importance of pursuing justice (Deuteronomy 16:20) and includes a detailed program to ensure the equitable distribution of resources (Exodus 22:24-26; Leviticus 25:36-37; Deuteronomy 23:20-1, 24:6, 10-13, 17); and,
* Climate change and climate change mitigation policies lay a disproportionate burden on most vulnerable people and nations.

We therefore urge the United States Congress to adopt policies leading to reduction of the threat of climate change to [locality], [state], the United States and the world and to draft without delay legislation to minimize greenhouse gas emissions.

[We further acknowledge that:

* **T**he environmental, health, and social effects of carbon emissions are not represented in the prices paid for fossil fuels; and,
* To begin to correct this planning and market failure, Congress should enact a national carbon fee on fossil fuels, based on the amount of C02 the fuel will emit when burned; and,
* For efficient administration, the fee should be applied to fossil fuels as far upstream in the economy as practical, or at the port of entry into the United States; and,
* A national, revenue-neutral carbon fee starting at a relatively low rate and increasing steadily over future years is a market-based solution that would minimally disrupt the economy while sending a clear and predictable price signal to businesses to develop and use noncarbon-based energy resources; and,
* Citizens’ Climate Education Corporation Commissioned Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) to do a nation-wide macroeconomic study on the impact of a revenue-neutral carbon fee; and,
* REMI found that after 20 years a revenue-neutral carbon fee would lead to a decrease in GHG emissions by 50 percent, an increase in GDP and national employment of 2.1 million jobs, 13,000 lives saved annually and an increase in annual real incomes of $500 per person; and,
* Border adjustments, such as carbon content-based tariffs on products imported from countries without comparable carbon pricing and refunds to U.S. exporters for carbon fees paid, would maintain the competitiveness of U.S. businesses in global markets; and,
* A national carbon fee can be implemented quickly and efficiently, and respond to the urgency of the climate crisis, because the federal government already has in place mechanisms, such as the Internal Revenue Service, needed to collect fees from fossil fuel producers and importers; and,
* A national carbon fee would make the United States a leader in mitigating climate change and the advancing clean energy technologies of the 21st Century, and would incentivize other countries to enact similar policies.

We therefore further urge the United States Congress to levy a fee on carbon-based fossil fuels, with (1) all collected fees returned to households to protect low- and middle-income Americans from the impact of price rises due to the carbon fee tax and (2) carbon-content based border adjustments to protect the international competitiveness of U.S. businesses.]

Adopted by [Name of Organization] on [date]