

**Town of Erie
Resolution No. 21-064**

A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Erie Urging the Colorado State Legislature to pass and Governor Jared Polis to sign SB21-200.

Whereas, in 2019, the Colorado State Legislature passed HB19-1261, which set goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Colorado by 26% by 2025 and 50% by 2030 from 2005 levels, and

Whereas, scientists have made it clear we must meet these targets to prevent the worst consequences of climate change, and

Whereas, the State of Colorado is not currently on track to meet these goals, and

Whereas, earlier this year, Governor Jared Polis released a promising Colorado Climate Roadmap with sector-specific objectives to reach HB-1261 targets, and

Whereas, to successfully meet these goals it will help to set industry specific emissions targets for the electricity, oil and gas, transportation, and building sectors of the Colorado economy, and

Whereas, low income and BIPOC communities will continue to experience environmental inequity if we do not meet our science-based climate objectives, and

Whereas, SB21-200 would create an environmental justice ombudsperson and an environmental justice advisory board, allocate funding, specifies processes for engaging disproportionately impacted communities, and ensure that our climate policies will work toward community benefits and restorative justice, and

Whereas, the State of Colorado is behind in meeting established emissions reductions because HB-1261 does not have an enforceable deadline for processes, and SB21-200 fixes this problem by setting a reasonable timeline for rulemaking, and

Whereas, the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) will have almost another year to complete the process set out two years ago and the bill provides additional resources for AQCC to complete its work, and

Whereas, the goals set in SB21-200 are challenging because the State has missed earlier time windows to address the climate crisis, and therefore, we must take more active steps to ensure we will achieve emissions reduction goals by making them enforceable, and

Whereas, Congress entrusts air pollution regulation to the EPA through the Clean Air Act, and similarly Colorado's elected legislators have vested rulemaking authority to the AQCC for regulating air quality, with appointed AQCC commissioners supported by subject matter experts and career employees, and to meet the State's climate goals the AQCC is the entity best positioned to coordinate with other entities in and outside of the government and to work with the public to achieve our climate goals, and

Whereas, wildfires and drought are getting worse each year in Colorado, a sobering reminder that the climate crisis is already upon us, and to avoid the worst impacts and protect future generations, we all need to be champions for public health and effective policies that cut carbon pollution, and

Whereas, when it comes to addressing the climate crisis every day of delay jeopardizes our health and the environment, and in particular harms low income and BIPOC communities who are most at risk,

Whereas, we need certainty that we will hit our state's climate targets. We urge you to sign SB21-200, which does that by equitably implementing your Climate Roadmap.

Now Therefore be it Resolved by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Erie, Colorado, that:

Section 1. The Board of Trustees hereby urges the Colorado State Legislature to pass and Governor Jared Polis to sign SB21-200.

Adopted this 11th day of May, 2021.

Jennifer Carroll, Mayor

Attest:

Heidi Leatherwood, Town Clerk