

Four Freedoms Democratic Club
Resolution 2017-004

Whereas increasing carbon dioxide levels contributes to climate change, *and*

Whereas a national policy that would “put a price on carbon,” making fossil fuels more expensive relative to other forms of energy, would help ameliorate this accelerating problem, *and*

Whereas many Democratic officials accept this proposition, *and*

Whereas a group of prominent Republican elders, calling themselves the Climate Leadership Council, including former Secretary of State Baker, former Secretary of State Shultz, and the prominent GOP economists Gregory Mankiw and Martin Feldstein have proposed a carbon-fee-and-refund proposal that puts a real and substantial price on fossil fuels, *and*

Whereas this proposal incorporates a refund formula that distributes proceeds in a fair, progressive manner, *and*

Whereas few Republicans have yet chosen to engage in a productive discussion of the Baker-Shultz proposal, *and*

Whereas Democrats have yet to unite behind any specific carbon tax or cap proposal, *and*

Whereas issues with this particular proposal do not nullify the core purpose or intended impact of the proposal, *and*

Whereas the central goal and economic realities of the proposal are acceptable as written, *and*

Whereas negotiating by starting with this proposal represents our best chance to get meaningful carbon taxation anytime soon, *and*

Whereas Democrats will endorse a good idea, even if it was originally articulated by Republicans,

Be it hereby resolved that the Four Freedoms Democratic Club:

1. Recognizes that the Baker-Shultz proposal is a good, though not the only, starting point for negotiating a climate control solution;
2. Calls on all Democratic politicians and other Democratic organizations to support the basic financial framework of Baker-Shultz as the starting point for a realistic plan that will address our dangerous dependence on carbon-based fuels for energy; and
3. Urges our elected officials, regardless of their party, to actively support and develop a risk management plan for carbon based on this proposal or any other proposal that would address the growing problems of greenhouse gases.