RESOLUTION NO. 2013-47

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS POLLUTION UNDER THE CLEAN AIR ACT

WHEREAS, the decade from 2000 to 2010 was the warmest on record, 2005 and 2010 tied for the hottest years on record; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency determined that current and future greenhouse gas concentrations endanger public health, and according to the Global Humanitarian Forum climate change is already responsible every year for some 300,000 deaths, 325 million people seriously affected, and economic losses worldwide of U.S. $125 billion; and

WHEREAS, extreme weather events, most notably heat waves and precipitation extremes, are striking with increased frequency, with deadly consequences for people and wildlife; in the United States in 2011 alone, a record 14 weather and climate disasters occurred, including droughts, heat waves, and floods, that cost at least $1 billion each in damages and loss of human lives; and

WHEREAS, climate change is affecting food security by reducing the growth and yields of important crops; droughts, floods and changes in snowpack are altering water supplies; and

WHEREAS, scientists have concluded that by 2100 as many as one in 10 species may be on the verge of extinction due to climate change; and
WHEREAS, rising sea levels, reduced snow pack in the Sierras, and extreme
weather are issues that are beginning to affect the San Francisco Bay Area; sea level rise
in the Bay Area is expected to increase by sixteen inches by 2050 and fifty-five inches by
2100; and miles of shoreline and parks could be underwater, which could result in $62
billion worth of infrastructure damage in the Bay Area; and

WHEREAS, by mid-century, the city could see three to four times as many
extreme heat days as we do today with related increases in hospitalizations and deaths,
especially for vulnerable populations of seniors, young children, low-income households;
and

WHEREAS, for four decades, the Clean Air Act has protected the air we breathe
through a proven, comprehensive, successful system of pollution control that saves lives
and creates economic benefits exceeding its costs by many times; and

WHEREAS, with the Clean Air Act, air quality in this country has improved
significantly since 1970, despite major growth both in our economy and industrial
production; and

WHEREAS, between 1970 and 1990, the six main pollutants covered by the
Clean Air Act — particulate matter and ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, lead,
sulfur and nitrogen oxides — were reduced by between 47 percent and 93 percent, and
airborne lead was virtually eliminated; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Air Act has produced economic benefits valued at $2
trillion or 30 times the cost of regulation; and
WHEREAS, the City of Albany has been a leader in the fight against climate change and for clean air, having (a) adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2010, which aims to reduce the city's carbon emissions to 25% below 2004 baseline emission levels by 2010; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Albany City Council, on behalf of the residents of Albany, do hereby urge the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and President Barack Obama to move swiftly to fully employ and enforce the Clean Air Act to do our part to reduce carbon in our atmosphere to no more than 350 parts per million.

[Signature]
MAYOR
RESOLUTION NO.  2013-47

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, The 3rd day of September, 2013, by the following votes:

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Barnes, Maass, Vice Mayor Wile & Mayor Thomsen

NOES: none

ABSENT: none

ABSTAINED: none

RECUSED: none

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, this 4th day of September, 2013.

Eileen Harrington
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

The City of Albany is dedicated to maintaining its small town ambiance, responding to the needs of a diverse community, and providing a safe, healthy and sustainable community.