Carbon Neutrality Fee Bill F2016-B3

WHEREAS, in order for the State of Texas to stay nationally competitive in its pursuit of a future dominated by renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, the University of North Texas has been a recognized leader in environmental research for more than 77 years and has an academic tradition of green and energy-efficient programs to conserve water and energy; and

WHEREAS, The University of North Texas was the first large public institution in Texas to sign the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment; and

WHEREAS, air pollution in the region consistently exceeds national air quality standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, emissions from the municipally owned quick-start natural gas generator will negatively impact the air quality of university students; and

WHEREAS, the currently established We Mean Green student environmental service fee, as outlined by Texas House Bill 3353, would be fully depleted by an annual university-wide purchase of renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, there is no ratified Texas Legislature Bill that allows universities to charge their students a fee to purchase renewable energy credits or carbon offsets;

LET IT BE RESOLVED, a referendum be scheduled for the Fall 2016 Election to assess the Student Body’s interest in a Carbon Neutrality Fee.

“Do you authorize the University of North Texas to charge the Student Body a fee not to exceed $1/hour each semester for the purpose of fully neutralizing the University’s carbon footprint through the purchase of Renewable Energy Credits and/or verified carbon offsets?”
Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Miller
Senator, College of Engineering

Tiffany Miller
Senator, College of Arts & Sciences

Cam Johnson
Senator, College of Arts & Sciences

Mercedes Mercado
Senator, College of Education

Teresa Aguayo
Senator, College of Business

Laura Sanders
Senator, Colleges of Public Administration & Community Service

Rishi Talati
Senator, Texas Academy of Math & Science

Nilanjana Nair
University of North Texas Student Government Freshman Intern

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In Witness thereof, I hereby certify the Student Senate of the University of North Texas Student Government Association has approved this document and is referred to the office of the President.

_____________________________     ________________________
Speaker of the Senate        Date

Presidential Action:

- Vetoed
- Approved

____________________________     ________________________
President of the Student Government Association       Date

____________________________     ________________________
Vice President of Student Affairs       Date