

# **MEDIA UPDATE**

## **FALL 2015**



**Citizens' Climate Lobby**

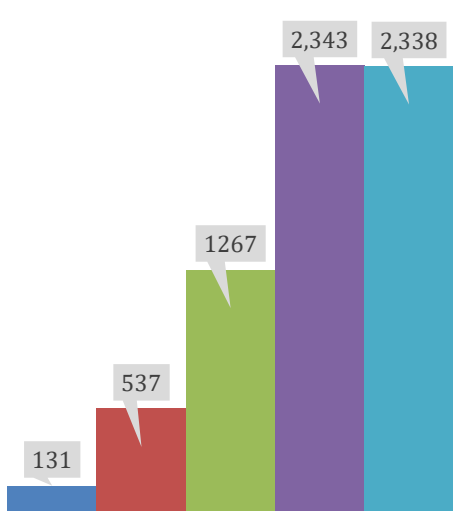
An overview of media  
generated by CCL Volunteers  
July 1 -October 29, 2015

Every day, Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteers generate media in newspapers and online publications throughout the United States.

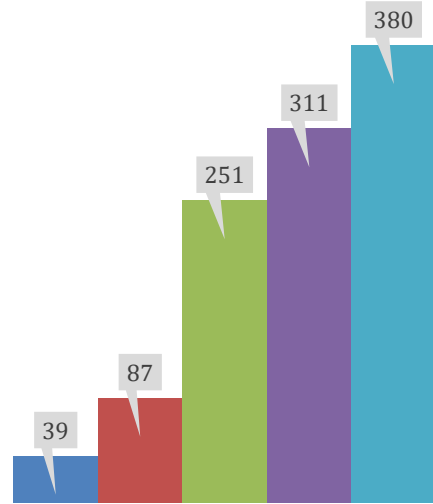
How much media? Quite a lot. Since our last update in June, CCL volunteers have published 928 letters to the editor, 136 op-eds and generated 19 editorials.

The charts below illustrate the growth in media our volunteers are generating.

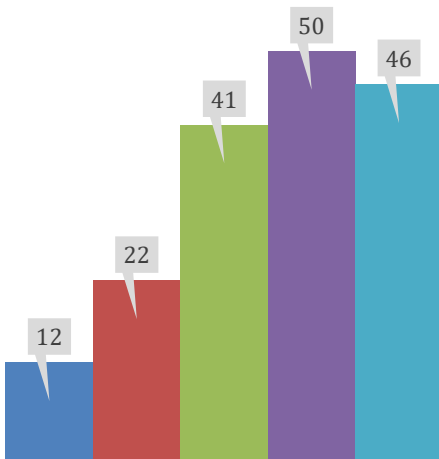
■ 2011 ■ 2012 ■ 2013 ■ 2014 ■ 2015 YTD



**Letters to the Editor**



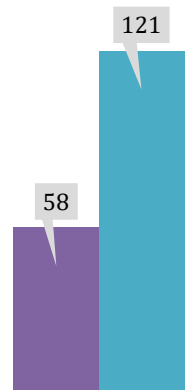
**Op-eds**



**Editorials**



**Articles**



**Online**

This report highlights three of our media campaigns over the last 4 months:

1. Media generated on the climate change resolution introduced by Rep. Chris Gibson and 10 other Republicans on Sept. 17.
2. Publication of op-ed from CCL Executive Director Mark Reynolds, *Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong.*
3. Publication of op-ed co-authored by Mark Reynolds and former Congressman Bob Inglis (R-SC), *There's a better response to EPA climate rules besides 'Just say no.'*

## **EDITORIAL ENDORSEMENT**

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Many of our 305 CCL chapters have met with the editorial boards of their local newspapers to seek endorsements for our Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal. They develop a relationship with a member of the editorial board and from time to time pitch our media packets whenever climate change is in the news. When the Gibson resolution was introduced in the House, we prepared a media packet that our volunteers pitched to local newspapers. On the following page is a reproduction of an editorial published on October 11 in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat.

# The Press Democrat

October 11, 2015

## Editorial: Time to consider a tax on carbon

For all the disarray of the GOP leadership in Washington, one recent partisan breakthrough should not be overlooked. Last month, 10 House Republicans broke ranks and came together on a resolution acknowledging that climate change is real and calling on Congress to work toward solutions.

The timing couldn't have been better. It came just weeks before the arrival of Pope Francis who, in raising his own concerns about climate change, had already made a plea for "a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet."

Here's something to contribute to that dialogue. If we're to get serious about lowering carbon emissions and encouraging the purchase of cleaner sources of energy, there's one step to consider, one that even many conservatives are supporting. The adoption of a carbon tax.

The system is far less complex than cap and trade with the likelihood of having a far greater impact. The simple idea is to require fossil fuel companies to pay a fee on the CO<sub>2</sub> content of the fuels they extract.

Why support that? Isn't this just an opportunity to give taxpayer money away for pet projects by lawmakers? No. The key is that the money would go directly to taxpayers through monthly dividend checks. Economists for the group Citizens Climate Lobby, which is pushing for adoption of such a system, have projected that checks for a family of four would be \$220 a month by 2021, rising to \$397 per month by 2035. Yes, the fee on fossil fuels would drive up the cost of energy, but the checks would make up the difference — and then some.

Under the carbon tax, roughly two-thirds of U.S. households would come out ahead. Most of those who would not are wealthy individuals who have

large carbon footprints due to air travel and other factors, projections show. They aren't going to make much of a dent in their bills and carbon footprints by buying hybrids either.

But here's the most important dividend. This approach, known officially as the carbon fee and dividend system, would reduce the nation's emissions 52 percent below 1990 levels within 21 years. That's far greater than reductions envisioned by other plans, including legislation signed by Gov. Jerry Brown last week that sets a goal for California of generating half of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030. That's good, but it did not go far enough. A provision of SB 350 called for cutting gasoline use in half. But that was removed from the bill amid opposition from oil companies.

A sure way to get oil companies to understand the importance of reducing carbon emissions is to charge them at the source. To ensure this system does not put American companies at a competitive disadvantage, the carbon fee and dividend system would include border tariffs on products imported to the U.S. The tariffs would be based on the product's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. But they would only apply if the imports come from a country that does not have a similar system in place.

As former Secretary of State George Shultz wrote earlier this year in endorsing a carbon tax, "Let's level the playing field for competing sources of energy so that costs imposed on the community are borne by the sources of energy that create them, most particularly carbon dioxide."

As the nation grapples with more complex ways of confronting climate change, this is a simple idea that should be part of the conversation.

# HOUSE RESOLUTION 424 - REP. CHRIS GIBSON

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On September 17, Representative Chris Gibson (R-NY) and 10 of his Republican colleagues introduced a resolution affirming that climate change is having a severe impact and urging the House of Representatives to work on solutions to the problem. Since then, Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteers throughout the U.S. have published letters to the editor and op-eds and also generated articles and editorials in newspapers around the country referencing the Gibson resolution.

## SAMPLE OF MEDIA GENERATED

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The following two pages contain reproductions of two letters to the editor and an op-ed that were generated in our media campaign.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR, SEPT. 23, 2015

## His efforts should be applauded

**Michael Dimen**, Olivebridge

This is a shout out to our Congressman, Chris Gibson. He is presenting to Congress a climate change resolution, which takes a foresighted stand to limit the environmental changes that threaten our children and grandchildren.

Representative Gibson, an avowed conservative, said, "Part of being conservative is judicious conservation of resources, both manmade and natural." He recognizes that climate change is causing tremendous damage to our homes, neighborhoods, businesses and towns, with consequent costs threatening to bankrupt our society.

Gibson acknowledges that human activities have played a part in creating these climatic shifts, and sees

that our efforts can alter this trend, and can lead to economic growth for our State and our Nation. His resolution states that, "efforts to mitigate the risks of, prepare for, or otherwise address our changing climate and its effects should not constrain the United States economy." A fee on carbon would benefit the economy. Such a solution could add 2.8 million jobs over 20 years.

The Gibson resolution offers Congress the opportunity to hit the "reset" button on climate change and engage in a better-informed, more productive conversation. Mr. Gibson's efforts to create this bipartisan solution should be applauded.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR, SEPT. 19, 2015

## Thank you, Congressman Gibson

**Karen Halverson**, North Chatham

The news today that our very own Congressman, Chris Gibson, is taking the leadership role in calling for action on climate change is thrilling! Bravo, Congressman Gibson, for having the courage and the will to address this critical issue, and to rally your fellow Republicans to the cause. We need Congress to help ensure a healthier world for ourselves and for future generations.

Drought, wildfires, and epic storms are all evidence that our climate is changing. Scientists are in agreement that carbon emissions are responsible. The

costs to businesses, to taxpayers, to the health of humans and to all other species, and to the environment are beyond reckoning.

We, as a nation and as a world leader, need to find practical ways to address climate change. Earlier this year, the U.S. Senate voted to acknowledge climate change and the human role in it. Now, with Gibson leading the way, the House is following suit. Many thanks to Congressman Gibson, and to the other Republicans who are stepping up to the plate, to help preserve our planet for our children and for theirs.

MILWAUKEE • WISCONSIN  
**JOURNAL SENTINEL**

OP-ED, SEPT. 28, 2015

## **Pope Francis inspires a dialogue on climate change**

**Madeleine Para and Michael Arney**

In stepping down from his presidential bid last week, Gov. Scott Walker expressed his hope that "a positive conservative message (would) rise to the top of the field" (Journal Sentinel, Sept.21). Walker was of course referring to one of his former rivals (presumably one other than Donald Trump).

There is another "positive conservative message" we would ardently love to see "rise to the top." It is a resolution by Rep. Chris Gibson (R-N.Y.) and 10 fellow House Republicans to address climate change.

Gibson's resolution frames itself more broadly as a call for "conservative environmental stewardship." The 11 co-sponsors commit to "economically viable, and broadly supported private and public solutions to study and address the causes and effects of measured changes to our global and regional climates" (HR 424). From members of a party that has resisted action on climate so vigorously, this is a huge step.

Not coincidentally, Gibson introduced his resolution the week before Pope Francis would address the Congress. Gibson and seven of the other sponsors are Catholic. Archbishop Thomas Wenski of Miami called the resolution a "positive example for government leaders" in opening up dialogue on climate change. "The U.S. bishops stand united with the Holy Father in his call to protect creation and our common home for the well-being of current and future generations."

Francis recognizes what many scientists have said: Human activity, notably the burning of fossil fuels, is changing the climate system in ways we do not fully understand and have no way to undo. He sees it as "a global problem with grave implications ...one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day." But he puts the climate challenge in a context of other environmental, social and spiritual issues we face in the modern world, from water scarcity to unemployment to a lack of inner peace.

Some in Wisconsin are still skeptical that climate change is a true threat. The climate in our state has warmed, but the past few years have been cool. Some of the concerns associated with warming, such as drought, health problems, rising sea levels, food shortages, political instability and migration may seem remote to many Wisconsinites.

Not so for Sister Paul-Mary Draxler (SSND), a Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer who now lives in Elm Grove. Sister Paul-Mary spent 10 years on the Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean. This remote chain of islands averages 6 feet above sea level. The U.S. military has a major presence there, using small islands for satellite launches, and the wide lagoon as a target for Strategic Defense Initiative rockets from California, more than 5,000 miles away.

Due largely to global climate change, it is expected that much of the atoll will be under water by the end of this century, and 13,500 residents will need a place to go, as will the military operations. For the Defense Department and for those who live or have lived on these islands, climate change is real and calls for urgent action.

Gibson and his colleagues have found a "positive conservative message" in committing to address climate. Leaders of 34 national faith communities, including the president of the National Council of Churches, are encouraging every member of the House to co-sponsor his resolution. We urge all Wisconsin representatives, in particular Catholic Republicans Paul Ryan, Jim Sensenbrenner, and Sean Duffy, to co-sponsor HR 424. It is not policy, but it is a significant recognition of a problem and commitment to leadership.

And as Francis says, "Let us sing as we go. May our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope."

*Madeleine Para is the national program director of the Citizens' Climate Lobby and Michael Arney is the West Milwaukee chapter leader of the Citizens' Climate Lobby.*

## **MEDIA GENERATED ON GIBSON CLIMATE RESOLUTION**

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### **EDITORIALS**

**THE PRESS DEMOCRAT**, CA. Oct. 11: Time to consider a tax on carbon

**WINDHAM JOURNAL**, NY. Sept. 23: Gibson has the right idea

**COLUMBIA PAPER**, NY. Sept. 24: Mr. Gibson stirs up Washington

**TIMES UNION**, NY. Sept. 20: Some rays of hope in GOP on climate change

**REGISTER-STAR**, NY. Sept. 19: Gibson has the right idea

**TIMES UNION**, NY. Oct 7: Cartoon: Gibson, Stefanik, Hanna: "We think it's real."

### **ARTICLES**

**RAPPAHANNOCK RECORD**, VA. Oct. 8: Rep. Whitman meets with climate change group

**NORTHUMBERLAND ECHO**, VA. Sept. 30: Congressman meets with Citizens' Climate Lobby

**THE COLUMBIA PAPER**, NY. Sept. 24: Gibson presses House resolution on climate change

**REGISTER-STAR**, NY. Sept. 23: Area residents say global warming is real

**DAILY MAIL**, NY. Sept. 23: Area residents say global warming is real

**CHATHAM COURIER**, NY. Sept. 18: Gibson resolution breaks with GOP climate trend

**GREENSOURCE DWF**, TX. Sept. 22: Local eco groups mark Pope Francis' visit

**REGISTER-STAR**, NY. Sept. 18: Gibson resolution breaks with GOP climate trend

**TIMES UNION**, NY. Sept. 17: Gibson presses for resolution; Says threat real, calls for conservatives to act

**NEW YORK TIMES**, NY. Sept. 17: As Presidential Debaters Dodge Climate, 10 House Republicans Resolve to Pursue 'Environmental Stewardship'

**TIMES UNION CAPITOL CONFIDENTIAL**, NY. Sept. 17: Gibson introduces GOP resolution on climate change

**TIMES UNION A.M. ROUNDUP**, NY. Sept. 17: Gibson presses GOP to face climate change

**TIMES HERALD RECORD**, NY. Sept. 19: The Fray: Gibson, GOP peers call for climate change action

**THE POST-STAR**, NY. Sept. 19: Stefanik joins resolution for environmental protection

**RIVER CHRONICLE**, NY. Sept. 23: Gibson resolution breaks with GOP climate trend

**GREENE COUNTY NEWS**, NY. Sept. 24: Yale study: More say global warming is real

### **OP-EDS**

**MIDLAND DAILY NEWS**, MI. Oct. 4: Breaking the partisan impasse on climate change

**ECLECTA BLOG**, MI. Oct. 8: Congressional Republicans begin to move toward sanity on climate change with The Gibson Resolution

**HOPEWELL VALLEY NEWS**, NJ. Oct. 7: Global warming: Everyone is waking up

**JANESVILLE GAZETTE**, WI. Oct. 3: US must lead to solve climate change

**DOUGLAS COUNTY EMPIRE PRESS**, WA. Sept. 30: Grateful for Reichert's leadership on climate issues

**YORK DISPATCH**, PA. Oct. 2: Proud of Pa.'s GOP climate resolution co-sponsors

**PORT CHARLOTTE SUN**, FL. Sept. 22: Breaking climate change impasse

**MILWAUKEE JOURNAL-SENTINEL**, WI. Sept. 29: Pope Francis inspires a dialogue on climate change

**CAPITOL TIMES**, WI. Sept. 22: Hopeful signs in the partisan divide over global warming

**ITHACA JOURNAL**, NY. Sept. 21: GOP takes critical step on climate

**THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL**, NY. Sept. 24: Congress should join rest of world, pass Gibson Resolution on global warming

**ELMIRA STAR-GAZETTE**, NY. Sept. 21: GOP takes critical step on climate

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION**, GA. Nov. 2: Flooded road is preview of future

**SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE**, CA. Nov. 1: Impasse on climate may be ending

**DAILY SENTINEL**, CO. Oct. 30: Urge Tipton to cosponsor environmental stewardship resolution

**VENTURA COUNTY STAR**, CA. Oct. 29: Capps' forum

**MIAMI HERALD**, FL. Oct. 29: Curbelo on target

**BANGOR DAILY NEWS**, ME. Oct. 27: Climate change resolution

**SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE**, FL. Oct. 27: These lawmakers lead by example

**AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN**, TX. Oct. 24: Support the Gibson climate resolution

**DAILY STAR**, NY. Oct. 23: Attention is mounting as climate change continues

**TIMES UNION**, NY. Oct. 22: A positive change in climate attitude

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS TRIBUNE**, WI. Oct. 22: Carbon fee and dividend would boost economy

**STEVENS POINT JOURNAL**, WI. Oct. 22: Carbon fee and dividend would boost economy

**MARSHFIELD NEWS HERALD**, WI. Oct. 22: Carbon fee and dividend would boost economy

**RAPPAHANNOCK RECORD**, VA. Oct. 22: Tell Whitman to cosponsor Gibson resolution

**THE CAP TIMES**, WI. Oct. 23: Wisconsin Republicans should join climate change resolution

**ASHLAND DAILY PRESS**, WA. Oct. 21: Praise for 11 Reps introducing Resolution 424

**TIMES UNION**, NY. Sept. 27: Climate policies need more voices

**BILLINGS GAZETTE** MT. Oct. 17: Urge Zinke to sign on to House resolution on climate

**FRESNO BEE**, CA. Oct. 17: Congress should pass Gibson resolution

**BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE**, MT. Oct. 15: Power plan needed to mitigate climate change

**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**, NC. Oct. 10: Finally, action

**YORK DAILY RECORD**, PA. Oct. 22: Bravo to the Gibson resolution

**COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN**, MO. Oct. 19: Climate advocacy connects with core values, moral stance

**OMAHA WORLD HERALD**, NE. Oct. 17: Finally talking about climate change

**HERALD RECORD**, NY. Oct. 18: Praise for Gibson's climate change stance

**RICHLAND OBSERVER**, WI. Oct. 8: Amazing things in Congress regarding climate change

**THE COLUMBIA PAPER**, NY. Oct. 15: Gibson praised for climate change work

**BALTIMORE SUN**, MD. Oct. 19: Harris and 'conservative environmental stewardship'

**BOZEMAN CHRONICLE**, MT. Oct. 14: Proposed carbon fee good for climate, economy

**KINGSTON DAILY FREEMAN**, NY. Oct. 14: It's time we put a price on carbon

**MORNING SUN**, MI. Oct. 10: Challenging growing seasons the new normal

**DAILY STAR**, NY. Oct. 9: State must do more to develop clean energy

**SANTA BARBARA NEWS PRESS**, CA. Sept. 25: The Spirit of Cooperation

**WHITTIER DAILY NEWS**, CA. Oct. 9: Environmental heroes

**THE HERALD DISPATCH**, WV. Oct. 4: Climate change should not be a partisan issue

**UTICA OBSERVER DISPATCH**, NY. Oct. 6: Cheers to Hanna for climate resolution

**TIMES UNION**, NY. Sept. 26: Fee on carbon emissions key to action on climate

**PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE**, PA. Sept.29: CO2 and climate

**GRAND JUNCTION DAILY**, Sept. 30: Our representatives should work toward significant climate change legislation

**CORTEZ JOURNAL**, CO. Oct. 6: Republican resolution could help climate



**YORK DISPATCH**, PA. Oct. 8: Perry should join courageous Republicans  
**DAILY MAIL**, NY. Sept. 22: Thanks for supporting Gibson resolution  
**SAUGERTIES TIMES**, NY. Sept. 24: Support Gibson's climate change resolution  
**RIVER CHRONICLE**, NY. Sept. 23: Gibson resolution breaks with GOP climate trend  
**THE COLUMBIA PAPER**, NY. Oct. 1: Gibson earns praise for climate bill  
**THE COLUMBIA PAPER**, NY. Oct. 1: Will Faso echo Gibson's climate stand?  
**DAILY TIDINGS**, OR. Oct. 6: Urge Walden to sign  
**ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL**, NM. Oct. 6: Business as usual  
**FARMINGTON DAILY TIMES**, NM. Sept. 27: Governor's energy plan is missing something  
**THE BUFFALO NEWS**, NY. Sept. 30: America must address climate change today  
**LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR**, NE. Oct. 3: Fortenberry should act on climate  
**CATSKILL MOUNTAIN NEWS**, NY. Sept. 23: His efforts should be applauded  
**TIMES UNION**, NY. Oct. 5: Kudos to Gibson for climate stand  
**SAN LUIS OBISPO TRIBUNE**, CA. Oct. 5: A show of leadership  
**TIMES UNION**, NY. Sept. 27: Conservatism is about conserving resources  
**LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR**, NE. Oct. 4: Saving Mother Earth  
**THE STATE**, SC. Oct. 2: Can GOP, religious leaders save planet?  
**THE COLUMBIA PAPER**, NY. Sept. 24: County environment group lauds Gibson  
**FRESNO BEE**, CA. Sept. 30: Nunes Should Support Environmental Protections  
**FRESNO BEE**, CA. Sept. 23: Ask Nunes to Co-sponsor Climate Change Bill  
**STAR TELEGRAM**, TX. Oct. 2: Boehner's departure  
**SANTA MARIA TIMES**, Sept. 27: Tax carbon, return revenue  
**THE RECORD**, CA. Oct. 1: Focus on climate change  
**ASHLAND DAILY PRESS**, WI. Sept. 25: A Plea to Rep. Duffy to Address Climate Change  
**SUPERIOR TELEGRAM**, WI. Sept. 29: Bipartisan solutions on climate change  
**ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION**, GA. Oct. 1: Still much work on climate change  
**PORT CHARLOTTE SUN**, FL. Sept. 29: Breaking Climate Change Impasse  
**LNP LANCASTER**, PA. Sept. 25: Pitts Can Help End Climate Change  
**BOULDER DAILY CAMERA**, CO. Sept. 26: House Republicans break ranks on climate  
**SACRAMENTO BEE**, CA. Sept.26: A miracle on climate change  
**SANTA ROSA PRESS DEMOCRAT**, CA. Sept.27: GOP and climate  
**DESERET NEWS**, UT. Sept. 28: How politics should be  
**LAWRENCE JOURNAL-WORLD**, KS. Sept. 25: Climate Action  
**REGISTER-STAR**, NY. Sept. 25: It's really caused by us  
**HERALD-TIMES**, IN. Sept. 24: Change begins  
**WAUSAU DAILY HERALD**, WI. Sept. 23: Duffy should sign on with climate study bill  
**MARSHFIELD NEWS HERALD**, WI. Sept. 23: Bi-partisan support vital to fix climate change  
**YORK DAILY RECORD**, PA. Sept. 23: Scott Perry must fight climate change  
**SALT LAKE TRIBUNE**, UT. Sept. 23: GOP reps' climate resolution deserves more attention  
**DAILY HERALD**, IL. Sept. 23: Bold Dold shows he's serious on climate  
**LAWRENCE JOURNAL WORLD**, KS. Sept. 24: Climate Courage  
**NEW YORK DAILY NEWS**, Sept. 24: Bless the Pope

**HERALD NEWS**, MA. Sept. 22: GOP candidates still in denial about climate change  
**SALT LAKE TRIBUNE**, UT. Sept. 22: Climate change has a market-based solution  
**LOVELANE REPORTER-HERALD**, CO. Sept. 21: Republicans coming around on climate  
**REGISTER-STAR**, NY. Sept. 19: Thank you Congressman Gibson  
**COLUMBUS DISPATCH**, OH. Sept. 21: Some in GOP are enlightened about warming  
**DAILY STAR**, NY. Oct. 9: State must do more to develop clean energy  
**WOODSTOCK TIMES**, NY. Oct. 1: Gibson is right  
**TIMES UNION**, NY. Oct. 2: Republicans must change attitude  
**POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL**, NY. Sept. 25: Gibson's bipartisan approach helps climate change efforts  
**NEW PALTZ TIMES**, NY. Sept. 28: A game changer?  
**KINGSTON DAILY FREEMAN**, NY. Oct. 16: It's time we put a price on carbon  
**STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE**, NY. Oct. 7: Seeking better laws on the environment  
**WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES**, NY. Oct. 1: Lawmakers need our support for resolution  
**ITHACA JOURNAL**, NY. Oct. 8: Reed should back climate change resolution  
**ELMIRA STAR-GAZETTE**, NY. Sept. 30: Reed should back climate change resolution  
**BUFFALO NEWS**, NY. Oct. 1: U.S. needs to confront threat of climate change  
**PRESS-REPUBLICAN**, NY. Oct. 1: Bucks party line  
**PRESS REPUBLICAN**, NY. Oct. 1: Courageous stand  
**DAILY MAIL**, NY. Sept. 25: It's really caused by us

## **RADIO**

**WAMC**, NY. Sept. 10: Gibson, 10 Republicans support action on climate change

## **OP-ED BY MARK REYNOLDS**

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Following CCL's conference in Washington in June, we distributed an op-ed from Executive Director Mark Reynolds – Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong. Our volunteers pitched it to newspapers throughout the country, and it was picked up in 40 publications. Below is a reproduction of the op-ed that ran in the Salt Lake Deseret News followed by a list of other publications.

# Deseret News

OP-ED, JULY 3, 2015

## Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

By Mark Reynolds

Here's what we know about climate change: 97 percent of climate scientists are convinced, based upon the evidence, that human-caused global warming is happening.

The popular narrative in the media these days, however, is that Republicans in Congress don't accept this fact and that the GOP is in denial about the science around climate change.

Well, I have some surprising news: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is a myth that I will now explode.

Our organization, Citizens' Climate Lobby, recently sent 800 volunteers to meet with more than 500 House and Senate offices in Washington. This was our opening in those meetings:

"We're here to talk about a policy that can grow the economy, add jobs, increase our competitiveness with China, and make our air and water cleaner."

That policy, our volunteers would go on to explain, is to place a gradually rising fee on carbon and return the revenue to households. They also shared the results of a nonpartisan study that found such a policy would cut CO2 emissions in half within 20 years, while adding 2.8 million jobs to the economy and saving 13,000 lives annually because of reduced air pollution.

So, what happened when our volunteers engaged Republicans in this conversation?

In most instances, there was keen interest, active listening, productive discussions and — in some cases — expressions of support for our proposal. In very few instances, however, there was pushback from the staff or member of Congress about the science of climate change.

In meeting after meeting with Republican offices, the unspoken agreement seemed to be: "Let's not argue about the science; let's talk about solutions and where we might find common ground."

But what about everything we're hearing on TV and reading in newspapers about Republican presidential candidates pushing back on the pope's encyclical? What about a certain member of Congress who tossed a snowball on the Senate floor to dispute global warming?

These are the more sensational reactions that make the news because the media thrives on conflict. No conflict, no news.

Despite the headlines, CCL has found in the past year that the propensity among congressional Republicans to dispute climate science has waned considerably. So, why has that changed and why were we ever arguing the science to begin with?

The answer, I believe, lies with the solutions being proposed, which all involved more government, more red tape and more regulations — things that are anathema to conservatives. Whether it was the 1,600-page cap-and-trade bill that failed to pass the Senate or the current Clean Power Plan to regulate carbon dioxide at electrical plants, Republicans aren't seeing solutions to climate change they can readily embrace.

Don't like the solutions? Don't admit there's a problem.

But what if there was a solution in harmony with the conservative values of less government and doing things that grow the economy, a market-friendly approach that doesn't dictate which technologies win or how we should conduct our lives?

Such a solution exists with Carbon Fee and Dividend, the policy I described earlier. By returning all revenue from the carbon fee to households, we accomplish two things: Keep the federal government from getting bigger and add jobs by putting money into the pockets of people who will spend it.

Republicans, by and large, like the sound of that, and a funny thing is happening as our volunteers talk to more and more members of Congress. The conversation is shifting away from the so-called "debate" about climate change and toward finding suitable ways to address the problem.

The premise that Republicans can talk about solving climate change comes as no great shock when you consider the following:

- During his presidency, Theodore Roosevelt protected approximately 230,000,000 acres of public land.
- President Nixon signed the Clean Air Act in 1970.
- Under President Reagan's leadership, the U.S. entered into the Montreal Protocol, which phased out ozone-depleting chemicals.
- Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, introduced the Climate Stewardship Act in 2003, 2005 and 2007.
- Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, was the co-sponsor of the CLEAR Act in 2009, legislation to reduce carbon emissions through a cap-and-dividend system.

So, everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is, for the most part, wrong. The chance that Republicans will lead on this sooner rather than later has never been more obvious.

And if Republicans are looking for a dramatic moment to lead on climate change, September 24 — the day Pope Francis speaks to Congress — would be the perfect time to introduce a carbon fee and dividend bill.

*Mark Reynolds is executive director of the Citizens' Climate Lobby.*

## **ADDITIONAL NEWSPAPERS THAT RAN THIS OP-ED**

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**MIDLAND DAILY NEWS**, MI. July 1: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL**, GA. July 1: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**AUBURN CITIZEN**, NY. July 2: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE**, FL. July 2: Republicans willing to engage on climate solution

**DESERET NEWS**, UT. July 3: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN**, CA. July 3: What you think you know about GOP, climate change is wrong

**KEARNEY HUB**, NE. July 3: Republicans ready to talk about climate change action

**EAST OREGONIAN**, OR. July 3: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**WALLA WALLA UNION BULLETIN**, WA. July 4: Everything you know about GOP, climate change is wrong

**HENRIETTA POST**, NY. July 5: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**PETOSKEY NEWS**, MI. July 6: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**MESSINGER POST**, NY. July 5: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**ELGIN COURIER-NEWS**, IL. July 7: Republicans seek solutions to climate change

**DES MOINES REGISTER**, IA. July 7: Republicans and climate change: Everything you think you know is wrong

**AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN**, TX. July 9: What you think you know about GOP, climate change is wrong

**DENTON RECORD-CHRONICLE**, TX. July 6: GOP not in denial on climate change

**ELMIRA STAR-GAZETTE**, NY. July 10: Re-think GOP and climate change

**ITHACA JOURNAL**, NY. July 10: Re-think GOP and climate change

**YORK DISPATCH**, PA. July 9: Everything you think you know about GOP and climate change is wrong

**OREGON STATESMAN**, OR. July 11: Take another look at Republicans and climate change

**WAUSAU DAILY HERALD**, WI. July 13: Give GOP a chance to embrace climate change solutions

**STEVENS POINT JOURNAL**, WI. July 13: Give GOP a chance to embrace climate change solutions

**WISCONSIN RAPIDS TRIBUNE**, WI. July 13: Give GOP a chance to embrace climate change solutions

**MARSHFIELD NEWS HERALD**, WI. July 13: Give GOP a chance to embrace climate change solutions

**TRI-CITY HERALD**, WA. July 11: What you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**THE CAP TIMES**, WI. July 9: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**GOTEBORGS POSTEN**, Sweden. July 16: Klimatlösning som omvänder republikaner

**MEMPHIS DEMOCRAT**, TN. July 9: Everything You Think You Know About Republicans and Climate Change is Wrong

**TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT**, FL. July 21: Republicans starting to embrace climate change solution

**KENNEBEC JOURNAL**, ME. July 21: Contrary to popular belief, most Republicans open to fighting climate change

**PORTAGE COUNTY GAZETTE**, WI. July 24: Support for solutions to fight climate change gains bi-partisan support

**TRAVERSE CITY RECORD-EAGLE**, WI. July 19: Everything you think you know about climate change, GOP is wrong

**GATES-CHILI POST**, NY. July 5: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**BRIGHTON-PITTSFORD POST**, NY. July 5: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**GREECE POST**, NY. July 5: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**WEBSTER POST**, NY. July 5: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**IRONDEQUOIT POST**, NY. July 5: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

**PENFIELD POST**, NY. July 5: Everything you think you know about Republicans and climate change is wrong

## OP-ED BY BOB INGLIS AND MARK REYNOLDS

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When the new EPA climate rules were released this summer, CCL distributed an op-ed co-authored by former Republican Congressman Bob Inglis and CCL Executive Director Mark Reynolds titled, There's a better response to EPA climate rules besides 'Just say no.' CCL volunteers submitted it throughout the U.S., and it was published in 22 newspapers. Below is a reproduction of the op-ed that ran in the Philadelphia Inquirer followed by a list of newspapers that published the piece.

# The Philadelphia Inquirer

OP-ED, AUG. 21, 2015

## GOP needs alternative climate policy

By Bob Inglis and Mark Reynolds

The Republican talking point on climate change is evolving, thankfully, from "I'm not a scientist" to "Let's solve it through innovation." That's good news for the nation and generations of Americans to come. After all, the first step to solving a problem is to admit that you have one, and that's now happening.

Jeb Bush, the presumptive candidate to beat for the Republican presidential nomination, said last month, "Ultimately, there's going to be a person in a garage somewhere that's going to come up with a disruptive technology that's going to solve these problems, and I think markets need to be respected in this regard."

Another candidate, Carly Fiorina, offered a similar observation: "I think the answer to this problem is innovation, not regulation."

It's a very nuanced position. In one breath, they acknowledge there's a problem we must solve and attack the regulatory solution currently leaving the station. There's just one problem: Suggesting that innovation without market reform will solve climate change is more wishful thinking than a serious policy proposal.

The truth is that we cannot afford to wait for "a person in a garage" to come up with a magic bullet. The technologies that can wean society off polluting fuels already exist. What we need is the economic incentive - money talks - to bring those technologies to scale.

To be sure, there are technologies yet to be invented that will have a game-changing impact on our ability to undo the damage accrued from burning fossil fuels for the past two centuries. But investors are more likely to fund the research and development for these new technologies if they are assured a market that values them and thus a reasonable return on their investment.

What would give them such assurance? A predictable, steadily rising fee for carbon pollution.

For those who worry that pricing carbon will drag down our economy, here's the other part of the equation: Return the revenue from the carbon fee back

to the people, either through direct payments or by lowering taxes.

A study by Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) looked at this type of policy, factoring in an annual increase of \$10 per ton on the carbon dioxide content of fossil fuels. REMI found that after 20 years, emissions would be reduced by 52 percent. More impressive, though, was that the policy would add 2.8 million jobs over 20 years because of the carbon-fee revenue being recycled into the economy.

Leading conservatives like George Shultz, who was secretary of state under President Ronald Reagan, have endorsed this solution, calling it an "insurance policy" against the risk - whatever it may be - posed by climate change.

Now that President Obama has released new Environmental Protection Agency regulations to reduce carbon emissions at power plants, conservatives will step up opposition to a plan they view as big-government overreach. Expect lawsuits, threats of a government shutdown, and heated rhetoric on the presidential campaign trail.

Do opponents really want or need to go down this path?

In previous standoffs, public opinion proved very harsh for the GOP. With opinion polls showing two-thirds of Americans supporting the new EPA rules, attacking them seems like a strategy that's all risk and no reward.

The problem is that congressional Republicans haven't come to the table on the climate issue, and if you're not at the table, you're on the menu. By not being engaged, the GOP has ceded climate-change policy to an executive branch that is imposing more government regulations, the least desirable solution Republicans can imagine.

But just saying "no" to EPA regulations is not a viable option, either politically or environmentally. Why not, then, offer an alternative solution that

adheres to conservative values? Tell the American people, We have an effective solution that . . .

Uses the power of the free market, rather than the government, to drive both innovation and reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions.

Does not increase the size and control of government.

Protects American businesses and expands the economy.

As Republicans cast about for a new talking point on climate change, the ones who come to the table with a

revenue-neutral plan to price carbon will eventually be hailed as visionaries, preservers of a livable world, and saviors of their party.

One of them might even win the White House.

*Bob Inglis is a former Republican congressman from South Carolina who now directs republicEn.org, a think tank promoting free-market energy and climate policies. Mark Reynolds is executive director of Citizens' Climate Lobby.*

## **ADDITIONAL NEWSPAPERS THAT RAN THIS OP-ED**

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**SALT LAKE DESERET NEWS**, UT. Aug. 11: 'Just say no' not best response to EPA climate rules

**SYRACUSE POST-STANDARD**, NY. Aug. 11: GOP needs a better response to EPA climate rules than 'No'

**YORK DISPATCH**, PA. Aug. 11: Better response to climate rules than 'Just say no'

**LONG BEACH PRESS-TELEGRAM**, CA. Aug. 11: A response to climate change the GOP should favor

**LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS**, CA. Aug. 11: A response to climate change the GOP should favor

**THE KEENE SENTINEL**, NH. Aug. 12: A better response to EPA climate rules than 'Just say no'

**SAN GABRIEL VALLEY TRIBUNE**, LA. Aug. 11: A response to climate change the GOP should favor

**PASADENA STAR-NEWS**, CA. Aug. 11: A response to climate change the GOP should favor

**ANDERSON INDEPENDENT-MAIL**, SC. Aug. 11: Republicans can't just say no to climate change solutions

**GREENVILLE NEWS**, SC. Aug. 15: Bob Inglis: Don't 'just say no' to EPA's climate rules

**WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL**, NC. Aug. 15: Bob Inglis and Mark Reynolds: Don't 'just say no' to EPA climate rules

**DETROIT FREE PRESS**, MI. Aug. 15: The right way for Republicans to address climate change

**CAPITAL PRESS**, OR. (The West's Ag Website), Aug. 20: There's a better response to EPA climate rules than 'Just say no'

**THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER**, PA. Aug. 21: GOP needs alternative climate policy

**THE DAILY WORLD**, WA. Aug. 26: How Republicans ought to address climate change

**WINONA DAILY NEWS**, MN. Aug. 26: Here's how Republicans can tackle climate change

**MASON CITY GLOBE GAZETTE**, IA. Aug. 27: How Republicans ought to address climate change

**FAYETTEVILLE OBSERVER**, NC. Aug. 25: How GOP can address climate issue

**THE GLEANER**, KY. Aug. 28: GOP taking first steps on climate

**THE HERALD**, WA. Aug. 30: A climate solution GOP can advance

**FREDERICKSBURG FREE LANCE-STAR**, VA. Aug. 29: How will Republicans address climate change?

**BANGOR DAILY NEWS**, ME. Aug. 6: There's a better response to EPA climate rules besides 'Just say no'