



Citizens' Climate Lobby Democracy as it Should Be



How 600 Volunteer Lobbyists met with 507
Congressional Offices June 24-25, 2014
Influencing the Legislative Process



CCL Founder - Marshall Saunders

“After I had given just a few talks about the climate, I realized that the actions I was suggesting to my listeners to take, while essential, were not a match for the problem. I realized that anything they intended to do would be swamped by what the government did or did not do.

I realized that ordinary people like me would have to organize, educate ourselves, give up our hopelessness and powerlessness, and gain the skills to be effective with our government.”

My name is Marshall Saunders and I live in Coronado, CA. My professional career was real estate brokerage specializing in shopping center development and leasing.

When I became alarmed about the changing climate in 2006, I began giving talks about global warming to service clubs, high schools, universities, and whoever else would listen. However, at the end of each talk I felt that the solutions I offered were not a match for the problem.

I realized that anything my listeners intended to do as individuals was totally swamped by public policy, by what the government did or didn't do.

While I suggested ways for people to reduce their use of carbon, Congress extended a law that gave \$18 billion in subsidies to oil and coal companies.

It seemed to me that Congress was doing things exactly backwards. Why? Because it is dominated by special interests, in this case the fossil fuel industry. In my heart I knew something else was at play: Ordinary people were not asking their members of Congress for anything regarding climate change, not in an organized and effective way. Furthermore, they didn't know what to do or how to do it, nor did they have self-confidence and support they needed. Citizens' Climate Lobby's purpose is to change all that by empowering individuals to have breakthroughs in exercising their personal and political power and by gaining the tools to be effective with government.

And how did I know anything about that? I've been lobbying Congress as a volunteer with RESULTS for 17 years. RESULTS creates the political will for the end of hunger and poverty. I saw that people who are concerned about the climate, needed that same training. I couldn't find a place where people could go to learn it, so on October 7th, 2007, I started Citizens' Climate Lobby. Now in November of 2014, Citizens' Climate Lobby has about 212 lobby teams throughout the USA and Canada and one in Sweden.

I invite you to listen to one of our Introductory Calls, which take place each Wednesday at 5:00 PM Pacific, 8:00 PM Eastern. The Introductory Call is the first step. I believe Citizens' Climate Lobby is a powerful way for us to create the political will for a livable world.



Citizens' Climate Lobby

What Others Are Saying



"Most impressive is the work of Citizens' Climate Lobby...If you want to join the fight to save the planet, to save creation for your grandchildren, there is no more effective step you could take than becoming an active member of this group."

Dr. James Hansen
Climate scientist and former head of
NASA Goddard Institute

"With all the negative news on climate and Congress it's understandable to feel discouraged. But hopelessness is not a strategy for making a difference and neither is acting alone. Citizens' Climate Lobby is the antidote, the missing link, the Harvard of citizen activism."

Sam Daley-Harris
Founder, RESULTS, Microcredit Summit Campaign,
and the Center for Citizen Empowerment and
Transformation



"The Citizens' Climate Lobby has identified the issue of pricing carbon as a vitally important lever in promoting dialog and action on climate protection. If you've been looking for that one group to join, you can stop looking now."

Dr. Daniel Kammen
Professor - University of California, Berkeley



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Citizens' Climate Lobby

Volunteer Publications

June 2014

Citizens' Climate Lobby and Citizens' Climate Education

1330 Orange Ave #300, Coronado, CA 92118

www.CitizensClimateLobby.org

Introduction to Citizens' Climate Lobby

Citizens' Climate Lobby is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change.

In order to generate the political will necessary for passage of our Carbon Fee and Dividend solution, we train and support volunteers to engage elected officials, the media and public at large. We're creating the political will for a livable world by empowering individuals to experience breakthroughs in exercising their personal and political power.

What we believe in...

Politicians don't create political will; they respond to it. We believe citizens who are well-trained, organized by Congressional district and provided a strong support system can more than influence the political process.

Respect for all viewpoints, even for those who oppose us.

We base our work on the advice of leading climate scientists and economists who tell us that Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation is the best first step to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to mitigate the impacts of a changing climate.

What we do...

With respect, appreciation and gratitude for their service, we build helpful, friendly relationships with our federally elected representatives and lobby them to support Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation. This past June at our annual conference in Washington, DC, more than 600 volunteers met with over 500 congressional offices. We have been told this is the most volunteer lobbyists ever to meet with Congress in one day.

We facilitate presentations and table at events to promote CCL and introduce others to our Carbon Fee and Dividend solution.

We support our volunteer chapters with monthly national conference calls, weekly group leader calls, and one-on-one volunteer support from staff.

We write letters to the editor and op-eds, and we meet with editorial boards to gain their editorial endorsement. The letters contained in this book represent only one month of volunteer publications. In 2014 we published over 2,253 letters to the editor which, given conservative readership estimates, reached over 21.6 million readers. These letters have informed the public at large that an effective solution to climate change exists, and these letters also help build the political will necessary for our leaders to act on climate change.

How Do Ordinary Citizens Solve Climate Change?

*By Building the Political Will Necessary
For Effective Climate Leadership*

What is Carbon Fee and Dividend?

Many leading climate scientists and economists assert that the best first-step to reduce the likelihood of catastrophic climate change from global warming is to enact Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation. It is the legislative policy proposal created by Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) to internalize the true costs of burning carbon-based fuels.

Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteers pride themselves in being FOR something rather than against things. Carbon Fee and Dividend is the policy our citizen volunteers around the world are advocating FOR.

What Will It Do?

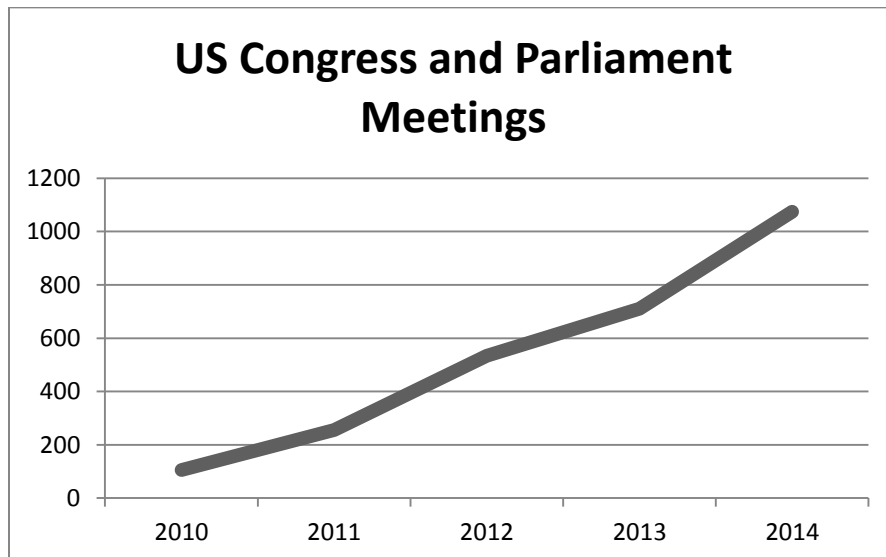
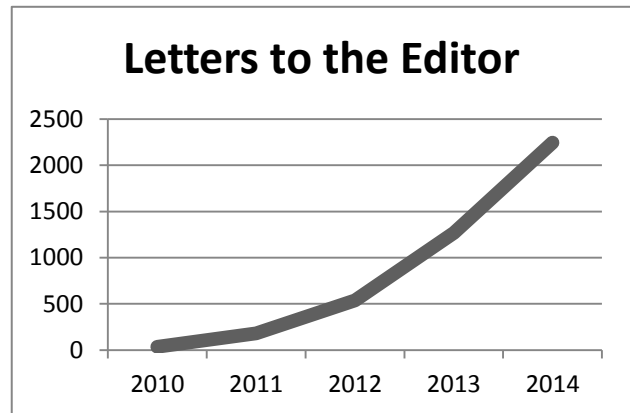
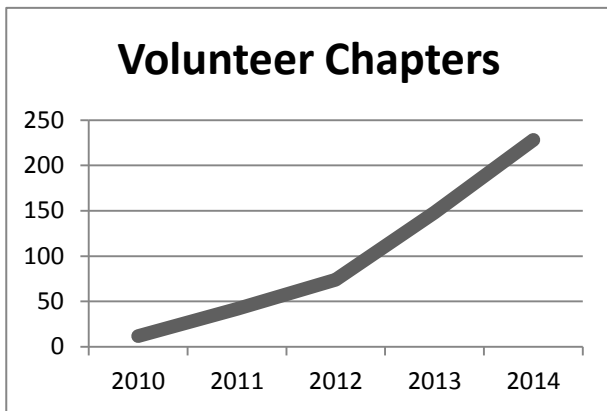
Placing a price on carbon, with full revenue return and border adjustments, will do four things: internalize the social costs of carbon-based fuels, drastically reduce carbon emissions, stimulate the economy and incentivize other countries to adopt similar legislation.

The Basics of Carbon Fee and Dividend

1. A fee is placed on carbon-based fuels at the source – well, mine, port of entry.
2. This fee starts at \$15 per ton of fossil CO₂ emitted, and increases steadily each year by \$10.
3. All of the money collected is returned to American households equally on a per-capita basis.
4. A border tariff is applied to all countries without similar legislation.

Citizens' Climate Lobby

Accomplishments



Citizens' Climate Lobby Publications, Videos and Resources

Watch CCL's video narrated by Ian Somerhalder to learn how you can #SpeakUp4Climate:
www.citizensclimatelobby.org/climate-change-solutions-speak-up-for-climate

In June 2014, Citizens' Climate Lobby released a study from the highly respected nonpartisan Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) Summary: www.citizensclimatelobby.org/remi-report

Watch our 3- minute video about Citizens' Climate Lobby 2014 Conference in Washington DC:
www.vimeo.com/100072405

Mark Reynolds, Executive Director discusses CCL's approach in this video:
www.tinyurl.com/nmoxcab

Faith Based Statements on Climate Change, by Lynn Whitney CNM and Ellie Whitney Ph.D.,
2012

Building a Green Economy, by Joseph Robertson, September 2010

Acknowledgements

In gratitude for democracy, for our elected officials' service, for citizens' voices and the amazing talents of Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteers.

Thank you Jay, for sharing how you express your commitment.

I believe that I can have a major impact on the fate of our planet if I work tirelessly towards climate solutions, think big and act fearlessly.

I believe that bold actions by a few brave people can change the course of history and stabilize the earth's climate.

I believe I am one of those people.

*Doing this will not be easy or comfortable but it is definitely possible.
And since it is possible I must try.*

I will not give up.

Jay Butera

The Tribune

6/1/2014

Letter to Editor

Sharon Rippner, San Luis Obispo

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA San Luis Obispo

Climate change is No. 1

Thank you for your frontpage reporting on Gov. Jerry Brown's actions and emphasis on combating climate change. However, Brown's efforts in adopting cap-and-trade policies for the largest greenhouse gas emitting industries is just the beginning of what is needed.

A critical part of a plan to reduce CO2 emissions must be a properly instituted revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend program. This fee on carbon would send a needed market signal to switch to renewable energy sourcing. Using these fees to send monthly dividend checks to U.S. households would offset, in whole or in part, the increased costs of energy during the transition. This program is working effectively in both British Columbia and Sweden. All that is needed for this program to work in California and the United States is political will. I encourage everyone to make combating climate change their No. 1 voting issue this year.

Citizens' Climate Lobby is working diligently to introduce a carbon fee and dividend program at the national level. We meet monthly on the first Saturday at 9:45 a.m. at the UU Fellowship SLO.

All citizens wishing to work to keep our planet a livable place for future generations are invited to join us.

Sharon Rippner San Luis Obispo

<http://tablet.olivesoftware.com/olive/Tablet/SanLuisObispo/SharedArticle.aspx?href=SLO%2F2014%2F06%2F01&id=Ar01602>

Medford Mail Tribune

6/1/2014

Letter to Editor

Ken Deveney

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter OR Southern Oregon

Walden vs. security

I see that Rep. Greg Walden has voted for an amendment to the military spending bill that prohibits the Pentagon from using funds to address climate change. Since the Pentagon calls climate change the country's greatest threat to national security, Walden seem to have voted against national security. --Kenneth Deveney, Ashland

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140601/OPINION/406010314>

Sacramento Bee

6/1/2014

Letter to Editor

Dana Nuccitelli

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Carbon tax can aid environment

Re "EPA expected to cap emissions from coal plants" (Page A1, June 2): The EPA announced its power plant greenhouse gas regulations Monday, targeting a 30 percent cut in emissions by the year 2030. These regulations are a long time in the making and are required by law, following a 2007 Supreme Court decision. However, for those who dislike government regulation, there is a better alternative.

The EPA regulations are needed only because Congress has failed to pass climate legislation.

There is a free-market proposal to implement a revenue-neutral carbon tax. All of the revenue generated from the carbon fee would be returned to citizens. This proposal could replace the EPA regulations, shrinking the size of government.

The Sacramento chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby has met with the staffs of local members of Congress, including Tom McClintock, Ami Bera and Doris Matsui, to build support for this proposal, and all have been receptive.

This is a bipartisan solution we should all get behind.

Dana Nuccitelli, West Sacramento

Link: n/a

Glenwood Post Independent

6/2/2014

Letter to Editor

Dave Reed, Carbondale, CO

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CO Roaring Fork Valley

Letter: Decision on regulating power-plant emissions

The Obama administration's proposal to regulate carbon dioxide from power plants will no doubt please some and upset others.

I see both sides. I believe climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity, so I'm thankful that at least somebody is proposing doing something about it. But, I regard the administration's regulatory plan as only a stopgap measure made necessary by Congress's inaction.

I want to encourage our members of Congress --especially Rep. Scott Tipton --to consider legislation that would address the problem more comprehensively by putting a price on carbon. Virtually all economists, on the right as well as on the left, agree that that's the most efficient and painless way to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

Citizens' Climate Lobby, of which I'm a member, is advocating for such legislation. While Congress may be fiddling on climate change for the time being, it's only a matter of time before it warms to this market-based, nonpartisan and fundamentally fair solution.

Sure, bring on Environmental Protection Agency regulation, but I hope Congress soon makes it unnecessary and irrelevant by simply putting a price on carbon.

Dave Reed

Carbondale

<http://www.postindependent.com/opinion/lettertotheeditor/11669231-113/congress-carbon-climate-price>

JS Online

6/2/2014

Op-Ed

Ross Astoria

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Racine-Kenosha

The apocalypse is upon us! It's the end of the world as we know it!

That's the impression one might get from the overwrought reaction of Republicans to the new Environmental Protection Agency standards that are intended to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants 30% by 2030.

The world we've known may be coming to an end, but it's not because of EPA regulations to cut carbon. We are presently on course to increase global temperature by 4 degrees Celsius within the next three or four generations, perhaps sooner. According to climate expert Kevin Anderson, a 4C world is so radically different that it is "incompatible with organized global community, is likely to be beyond 'adaptation,' is devastating to the majority of ecosystems and has a high probability of not being stable."

The recent National Climate Assessment concluded that in the Midwest, global warming has increased both extreme rainfall events and flooding and that "these trends are expected to continue, causing erosion, declining water quality and negative impacts on transportation, agriculture, human health and infrastructure."

A 2011 study by the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts concludes that streams in Wisconsin are becoming too warm to provide suitable habitat for brook trout.

Doing nothing, it is quite obvious by now, is not an option.

Despite their protests, it is highly unlikely that Republicans can block the new rules, given the EPA's string of recent victories before the Supreme Court. If the GOP does not want more EPA, its best option is to offer a market-based alternative: a revenue-neutral carbon tax. Such a tax would place a price on the carbon dioxide content of fossil fuels at the point of extraction or importation into the country.

Markets are broken when market actors are allowed to pollute for free, passing off their costs onto other people. A carbon tax corrects that market failure and is endorsed by conservatives

such as George P. Shultz, secretary of state under President Ronald Reagan, and Greg Mankiw, economic adviser to George W. Bush and Mitt Romney.

A revenue-neutral carbon tax has several advantages over EPA regulations that Republicans might find attractive.

First, it will take several years to implement the regulations, followed by several more of litigation. This is time and money wasted. The International Energy Agency recently concluded that in delaying the transition to low-carbon energy production by a mere two years, the cost of the transition has increased by \$4 trillion. In contrast to regulations, a carbon tax can be implemented quickly, saving money and decreasing the chances of crossing tipping points that shall lead to catastrophic global warming.

Second, unlike regulations, a carbon tax produces a stream of revenue. To keep the carbon tax revenue-neutral and to avoid increased government spending, the revenues from the carbon tax should be returned directly to households. An enterprising legislator, such as Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), might find the carbon tax a useful component of comprehensive tax reform.

Third, a carbon tax can be accompanied by a border tax adjustment, which will impose a tariff on the carbon content of imported products. This protects American businesses from unfair competition and provides a strong incentive for other nations to adopt a carbon tax.

While EPA regulations are a welcome advance in the U.S. effort to combat global warming, we can and must do better. Congressional Republicans should take the lead by supporting a revenue-neutral carbon tax.

Ross Astoria is a volunteer group leader with the Racine-Kenosha chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby.

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/revenue-neutral-carbon-tax-would-improve-on-epa-regulations-b99282755z1-261548361.html>

The Day

New London, CT

6/2/2014

Letter to Editor

Peter Hornat

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CT Manchester

Institute carbon tax to cut greenhouse pollution

The U.S. National Climate Assessment has reiterated the devastation of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The cost of mitigating and repairing damage from climate change is increasing worldwide. In the Northeast, sea level rise in conjunction with flooding from intense storm events costs taxpayers hundred of billions of dollars in repairing damage and adapting to an increasingly hostile environment. Meanwhile, the American economy is falling behind when it comes to the emergence of renewable energy technology. Greenhouse gas pollution must be internalized into fossil fuel price.

An upstream 100 percent revenue neutral carbon tax can create the necessary market signal for investment in renewable energy while returning dividends to homeowners. A carbon tax incrementally internalizes the environmental destruction of greenhouse gas emissions into the cost of energy. It is an egregious crime to allow greenhouse gas pollution to bankrupt the taxpayer while fossil fuel companies receive government subsidies to increase their record profits. Legislators seek the political will for climate legislation.

Now is the time to demand that our government protect people's interest over corporate profits by instituting a carbon tax.

<http://www.theday.com/article/20140602/OP02/306029999>

The Sacramento Bee

6/2/2014

Letter to Editor

Dana Nuccitelli

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

How about a free market alternative?

Re "EPA expected to cap emissions from coal plants" (Page A1, June 2): The EPA announced its power plant greenhouse gas regulations today, targeting a 30 percent cut in emissions by the year 2030. These regulations are a long time in the making and are required by law, following from a 2007 Supreme Court decision. However, for those who dislike government regulation, there is a better alternative.

The EPA regulations are only needed because Congress has failed to pass climate legislation. There is a free market proposal to implement a revenue neutral carbon tax. All of the revenue generated from the carbon fee would be returned to citizens. This proposal could replace the EPA regulations, shrinking the size of government.

The Sacramento chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby has met with the staffs of local members of Congress, including Tom McClintock, Ami Bera and Doris Matsui to build support for this proposal, and all have been receptive.

This is a bipartisan solution we should all get behind.

-- Dana Nuccitelli, West Sacramento

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/02/6450575/epa-regulations-can-be-replaced.html>

Cincinnati Enquirer

6/2/2014

Letter to Editor

Chris Heckman

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter OH Cincinnati

We need effective solution to global warming

Last night, "Cosmos" made an hour-long explanation of how CO2 is the dominant forcing in undeniable global warming. It's clear that we need to reduce emissions - but how? Obama promised he would act to reduce emissions if Congress failed, and an executive order was announced this morning to use the EPA to reduce emissions from power plants - the single most significant action the US has taken on CO2. Their emissions reduction goal is 30% of 2005 levels by 2030. It could be more ambitious, but it's better than nothing.

However, if Congress could accept the decades-old science and agree to act, we could implement a carbon fee - a far more effective solution. According to a report from the Energy Information Administration, a \$25-per-ton fee would create the economic incentive to reduce emissions faster (dropping emissions 47 percent by 2020 and 66 percent by 2030), and would create less drag on the economy overall. Such a fee would create a new source of revenue that could help with mitigation and adaptation, or even debt reduction.

Everyone wants to be a good steward of Creation - I feel a moral responsibility to do what I can to ensure a sustainable future for my two kids. I'm not alone. Pope Francis is preparing a papal encyclical on climate change, recently warning "if we destroy Creation, Creation will destroy us." The Pentagon has labeled climate change a "threat multiplier." We are on the brink of a Sixth Great Extinction, and the measurable evidence blames human activity. It's time to act, but we need everyone on board for the best solutions.

Local Representatives like Steve Chabot, Brad Wenstrup and John Boehner should accept the science that they are unqualified to debate, and work with Congress to pass a economic-based solution to reducing CO2 emissions that will be more effective than EPA regulations. The time is now.

--Chris Heckman,Over-the-Rhine

<http://www.cincinnati.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/06/02/we-need-effective-solution-to-global-warming/9878707/> Doug

Orange County Register

6/2/2014

Letter to Editor

Farrah Hedayati

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Orange County

Letters: Carbon fee would best discourage pollution

FULLERTON, Farrah Hedayati: Professor Tom Campbell's support of a carbon tax doesn't get into the issue of where the money goes, but most economists who talk about a carbon tax

support a revenue-neutral carbon tax, where all the tax collected is distributed to American households to cushion the effect of rising energy prices ["Counting carbon," Opinion, June 1].

Campbell's support of a carbon tax over cap and trade doesn't get into legal definitions, either, but a carbon tax like the one ExxonMobil supports in its March Climate Risk Report is actually a carbon "fee" and not a "tax."

A carbon fee and dividend is the best solution to the problem of climate change. Cap-and-trade plans like Environmental Protection Agency rules and regulations will create new bureaucracies. Lawsuits will follow, and regulations, once in place, will only address America's contribution to a global problem. Subsidies, EPA rules and regulation, and cap and trade don't begin to compare with putting a price on something we want to put an end to.

<http://www.ocregister.com/letters/carbon-616671-tax-mart.html>

York Daily Record

6/2/2014

Letter to Editor

Mike Omlor, Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Dover-York

"Climate change a real threat"

Thanks to the Rev. Hescox for his letter "U.S. Rep. Scott Perry votes to prevent military preparedness." This is a seriously disappointing vote to tie our military's hands by Rep. Perry. The Pentagon in their 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review on Page 8 says:

"Climate change poses another significant challenge for the United States and the world at large. As greenhouse gas emissions increase, sea levels are rising, average global temperatures are increasing, and severe weather patterns are accelerating. These changes, coupled with other global dynamics, including growing, urbanizing, more affluent populations, and substantial economic growth in India, China, Brazil, and other nations, will devastate homes, land and infrastructure. Climate change may exacerbate water scarcity and lead to sharp increases in food costs. The pressures caused by climate change will influence resource competition while placing additional burdens on economies, societies, and governance institutions around the world. These effects are threat multipliers that will aggravate stressors abroad such as poverty, environmental degradation, political instability, and social tensions --conditions that can enable terrorist activity and other forms of violence."

Speaking at West Point on Wednesday, President Obama told graduates troops would increasingly be called on to respond to "refugee flows, natural disasters and conflicts over water and food" due to climate change. He also said "we can't call on others to make commitments to combat climate change if so many of our political leaders deny that it is taking place."

Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge called climate change a "national security threat" in the Harrisburg Patriot News last February. "The U.S. national security community, including leaders from the military, homeland security and intelligence, understand that climate change is a national security threat." "They're not talking about whether or not it is occurring --it is," Ridge said. "They're talking about addressing the problem and protecting the American people. It's time Washington does the same."

--Mike Omlor, Washington Township

http://www.ydr.com/letters/ci_25880682/climate-change-real-threat-letter

The Sacramento Bee

6/2/2014

Letter to Editor

Harold Ferber, Elk Grove

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

EPA regulations and Republicans

Re "EPA expected to cap emissions from coal plants" (Page A1, June 2): The Environmental Protection Agency announced its draft power plant greenhouse gas regulations today, targeting a 30 percent cut in emissions from 2005 levels, by the year 2030. Republicans have already indicated their opposition.

The regulations will allow states flexibility in how they achieve required emission reductions. One solution is a revenue neutral carbon tax. A fee would be charged where a fossil fuel is extracted and all of the revenue generated would be returned to citizens.

This solution is entirely consistent with conservative Republican principles. It does not grow the size of government, it could be implemented without creating new government bureaucracies and new complex regulatory schemes, it does not seek to pick winning technological solutions, rather it allows the free market to determine how best to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, it is the least costly solution for climate change.

A solution Republicans can love. What's not to like?

-- Harold Ferber, Elk Grove

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/02/6452278/epa-regulations-and-republicans.html>

New York Times

6/2/2014

Letter to Editor

David Keppel, Bloomington

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter IN South Central Indiana

To the Editor:

As a resident of Indiana, a coal state, I applaud the Obama administration's proposed regulations to cut carbon pollution from power plants, and I am frustrated that even Indiana's Democratic senator, Joe Donnelly, wrote to the president to urge that he reconsider the proposal.

When it comes to climate change, no state is an island, free to continue its carbon pollution. As an agricultural state, Indiana will suffer reduced yields of corn and soybeans as a result of climate change. As an industrial state, it must shift to clean and efficient energy. The longer it delays, the greater its vulnerability to drastic change in a climate catastrophe.

Coal-state officials should join Jim Brainard, the Republican mayor of Carmel, Ind., and take the lead in climate-friendly adaptation, attracting new industries and good jobs. They should also support a carbon fee and dividend, putting a realistic price on carbon and spurring clean energy and smart conservation.

www.nytimes.com/2014/06/04/opinion/coal-pollution-and-climate-change.html

Columbia Missourian

6/2/2014

Op-Ed

Johann Bruhn

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MO Columbia

GUEST COMMENTARY: Climate change is real, and it's hurting us

Whatever you think about the natural components of the climate change we are experiencing, there is no doubt that human contributions to atmospheric greenhouse gas content are making the situation increasingly dire.

Chemistry tells us that this is the nature of things. Humanity can't continue to dump greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide and methane) into the atmosphere, as though it is an open sewer, without driving the climate crazy.

Sewers supposedly transport waste to someplace where it can be detoxified for reuse, but our greenhouse gas emissions have nowhere to go except into our finite atmosphere and the oceans.

We need to understand this, once and for all. And we must change our behavior going forward, while trying to deal with the consequences of our actions to date.

This won't be easy now, because we've already lost precious time due to the misinformation campaigns of those who stand to gain from the status quo (the fossil fuel magnates). They haven't apparently figured out yet that they and their families will inherit the same planet that you and I do.

Not just one issue

A point that needs to be made is that climate change and energy policy are not a "single issue" issue. Our choices of energy source (coal, fracked natural gas, tar sands petroleum, offshore oil drilling, wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, nuclear, etc.) and its transportation (pipelines, trains, tankers, electric grids, batteries) all have their own sets of impacts on the "commons" --the natural resources to which I dare say we all have an inalienable right.

These are clean air, clean water, wholesome food and shelter from the elements. If we no longer consider these to be inalienable human rights, then shame on us.

Last winter we saw the Arctic thaw cause the Polar Vortex to descend especially ruthlessly into the Midwestern and Eastern U.S. I wouldn't bet that we've seen the last of that phenomenon.

The West Antarctic ice sheet is believed to be melting out of control, guaranteeing (all by itself) several feet of sea level rise this century. And for you coffee drinkers like me, warming temperatures are allowing the coffee rust fungus to sweep uphill in Central America to devastate important coffee plantations.

Drought in Syria has played an important role in that country's civil unrest. Insect and other vectors of human disease (mosquitoes, ticks) are spreading into newly warming habitats.

Drought, root disease and bark beetle infestations are resulting in forest death and super fires in Australia and the Western U.S. And let's not forget Hurricane Sandy.

Reckless profits

Now consider the record profits being made by those who recklessly drill, frack, blast, excavate and transport their products across our continent and around the world in leaking pipelines, exploding trains and foundering ships.

They don't pay the true costs of their pollution. They've duped much of the public into thinking that they're purely acting in our best interests while they despoil our air and water with methane, mercury and other heavy metals that were once safely buried deep in the earth.

As a result, people living within the reach of exhaust plumes and contaminated water from coal-fired power plants can look forward to greater levels of asthma and cancer and potentially autism --social costs that Big Coal has no intention of paying for.

I've read that it's counterproductive to scare people out of apathy and into action. Well, I'm scared, and I'm taking action.

I'm writing this letter. I'm giving presentations on what I've discovered to be the truth. I'm divesting from fossil fuels, and I'm reinvesting in fossil-fuel-free mutual funds. I'm looking into installing solar panels on my home. I'm communicating with my elected officials, and I'm determined to make a difference. This is several steps up from turning the lights off when you leave the room, but that does help also.

We're all in it

Humanity is one great community, one big part of Nature, and by virtue of our unique impact on our one and only "Spaceship Earth," we are responsible for its stewardship.

Political boundaries will not protect you from climate change. Shifting to sustainable much less polluting energy sources will. I saw a recent headline suggesting that President Barack Obama's efforts are rendered meaningless by the pollution in large developing nations.

The journalist was either incredibly naive or willfully misleading. I saw another headline decrying the deaths of birds caused by wind energy turbines.

We must face up to the fact that our demands for ever more energy do have environmental consequences. But the impacts of sustainable energy harvest border on insignificant when compared with the Sixth Great Extinction that is becoming increasingly likely if climate change continues to spiral out of control.

Yet our elected politicians continue to dither and deny, fretting over the costs of correcting course and the fictional net loss of jobs, willfully ignoring the outrageous costs of inaction and the fact that sustainable energy provides far more jobs per dollar invested than do fossil fuels.

And importantly, there is also the issue of “right livelihood,” meaning jobs that feed the soul as well as the belly. I can only conclude that our elected congressional politicians on both sides of the aisle appear to be bought and paid for by the fossil fuel industries. If this doesn’t change immediately, it appears to be time for personnel changes in Congress.

Protect the future

Gary Dorr of the Nez Perce Nation noted: “I am empowered to take action by a moral authority to protect the resources of the seven generations to come after me.”

Small actions together carry great effect. We are all neighbors, all around the planet, across county, state and national borders.

What affects any of us ultimately affects all of us. Here and now, let’s support Obama’s “carbon rule” to control coal power pollution.

Whatever you think of his other policies, the president has gotten this right. With a strong carbon rule in place, then let’s move on to address the rest of the fossil fuel industries with a revenue neutral carbon tax rebated to all citizens.

Johann Bruhn is emeritus research associate professor in the Division of Plant Sciences and Center for Agroforestry at MU.

<http://www.columbiamissourian.com/a/175296/guest-commentary-climate-change-is-real-and-its-hurting-us/>

Richmond Times Dispatch

6/2/2014

Letter to Editor

Seth Heald

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter DC Washington

Editorial is right --tax carbon

Your editorial "Tax it" hit the nail on the head in calling for a carbon tax as the most effective way to address global warming. True, a U.S. tax by itself likely would not directly affect other big carbon emitters like China and India. But legislative action in the U.S. would show we are serious about addressing climate change and greatly help us push other big emitters to take strong action.

As you correctly note, a carbon tax is not currently feasible in Congress because of misguided opposition in more conservative districts. You got it right again in acknowledging that until Congress sees the light on a carbon tax, our country's only feasible option is the EPA's new rules on reducing carbon emissions from power plants. Those rules are expected to give the states considerable flexibility in how to achieve the required reductions.

Virginians should urge Gov. Terry McAuliffe to implement effective measures reducing power-plant carbon emissions. The unforgiving science of climate change and the rising sea levels that are threatening jobs and lives in Hampton Roads tell us we need strong carbon-reduction rules now. Like your editorial, I look forward to the day when an effective federal carbon tax will make other carbon-reduction measures obsolete.

Seth Heald. Rixeyville.

http://www.timesdispatch.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/correspondent-of-the-day/article_005183ea-9d2c-594b-8c36-054855130611.html

Aspen Times

6/3/2014

Letter to Editor

Dave Reed, Carbondale, CO

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CO Roaring Fork Valley

Letter: Decision on regulating power-plant emissions

The Obama administration's proposal to regulate carbon dioxide from power plants will no doubt please some and upset others.

I see both sides. I believe climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity, so I'm thankful that at least somebody is proposing doing something about it. But, I regard the administration's regulatory plan as only a stopgap measure made necessary by Congress's inaction.

I want to encourage our members of Congress --especially Rep. Scott Tipton --to consider legislation that would address the problem more comprehensively by putting a price on carbon. Virtually all economists, on the right as well as on the left, agree that that's the most efficient and painless way to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions.

Citizens' Climate Lobby, of which I'm a member, is advocating for such legislation. While Congress may be fiddling on climate change for the time being, it's only a matter of time before it warms to this market-based, nonpartisan and fundamentally fair solution.

Sure, bring on Environmental Protection Agency regulation, but I hope Congress soon makes it unnecessary and irrelevant by simply putting a price on carbon.

Dave Reed

Carbondale

<http://www.aspentimes.com/opinion/11664461-113/congress-carbon-climate-administration>

Aspen Daily News

6/3/2014

Letter to Editor

Dave Reed, Carbondale, CO

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CO Roaring Fork Valley

New rules a necessity without carbon tax

The Obama administration's proposal to regulate carbon dioxide from power plants will no doubt please some and upset others.

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Dave Reed

Carbondale

<http://www.aspendailynews.com/section/letter-editor/162495>

Boston Globe

6/3/2014

Letter to Editor

Don Hnatowich, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Wyoming wrong to put self-interest, politics ahead of planet's health

DERRICK Z. Jackson's May 28 op-ed column "Wyoming, the state of science denial," which describes efforts by that state's education board to reject the new national science standards because they mention climate change, is but one more example of how far the balance between selfish interest and global well-being can shift in the wrong direction.

When science becomes viewed as political, it can more easily be ignored if its message is unwelcome. In this case, the science --yes, it's settled and has been for decades --says that we must stop burning fossil fuels to preserve the planet.

But states, like Wyoming, that receive much of their income from fossil fuel exploitation worry that reminding the voting public about climate change could hurt the industry and, ultimately, their economic standing.

It is time to stop the charade. Science is never political. It seeks only the truth wherever that leads.

If the state board objects to teaching climate change, it should admit that the objection rests on local economics, not science. But then its members would have to explain why they believe that short-term economic gains justify putting our global well-being at risk.

Don Hnatowich

Brookline

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/editorials/2014/06/02/wyoming-wrong-put-self-interest-politics-ahead-planet-health/zbzY90gvswZScECtrOie6J/story.html>

Chicago Tribune

6/3/2014

Letter to Editor

Jay Mulberry

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter IL Chicago South

A step in the right direction toward curbing global warming

President Barack Obama has decided to use an Environmental Protection Agency ruling to start action against global warming. On an issue so important, congressional action would have been preferable, but Congress does not act these days; its members posture, but they are not serious. Many who understand global warming are afraid to speak. Others wear their ignorance proudly. There are few statesmen left.

In the last six months, serious men and women, scientists mostly, did what they could to warn us of the dangers ahead. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change declared that manmade global warming is already causing "extreme events, such as heat waves, extreme precipitation and coastal flooding," with worse to come if nothing is done.

Thus science pictures a war that we are losing. In human terms, carbon dioxide we put into the atmosphere now will stay forever, and the effects we see today can only become worse or stay the same; we are past the point of making things better.

The president's small step is at least in the right direction and at least gives the rest of the world a sense that we are willing to be in the game.

-- Jay Mulberry, Chicago

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/letters/chi-letter-a-step-in-the-right-direction-toward-curbing-global-warming-20140603,0,3218308.story>

The Roanoke Times

6/3/2014

Letter to Editor

Lawrence H Symonds, Lynchburg

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter VA Lynchburg

Symonds: Listen to the young; make Earth sustainable

Re: "Cutting through the climate debate fog," May 29 commentary:

Could it be our youth understand and appreciate the gifts of life that our planet offers better than many of their elders? If Hannah Schlepner is an example of what we can expect for our future, her commentary of May 29 made a true believer out of me.

Yet, there are --will be --those who deny her claims, as they have denied others' before. Some will come forth with absolute certainty that this or that claim is the correct one.

For instance, "How can you explain the increase in the South Pole's ice pack?" The denier media eagerly jumps on such releases like fleas on a puppy and would have us believe they've found the Holy Grail of Science Deniability. The corps of non-believers trumpet with glee and e-mail/text to all who agree: This is the new truth!

My advice? Listen to the young lady. Know your facts lest your lack of tact and knowledge betray you.

Though the science on such climate phenomena is complex, those who study and devote their careers to such studies know the answers can be derived through study and research more assuredly than any amount of speculation and misdirection any amount of money may buy.

Turns out the increase in (South) polar ice is due to.--. that's right, global warming, writ large.

Difficult as it may be to accept, folks, our planet --our planet --is under siege, and we are all responsible.

There are those of us who are interested in taking action to reduce and, hopefully, reverse the causes of global warming. One very frightening culprit is carbon emissions --largely man-made and ridiculously easy to control and reverse, if only our leaders in industry and in Washington take the steps necessary to curb our abusive overuse of fossil fuels.

Thousands of people are devoting their time and energy through many organizations working hard to make sure there will be a future for Schleupner and others who want to live to see the tide turn in favor of our --their --planet.

One with a unique approach is Citizens Climate Lobby, which is looking for Climate Heroes in our Congress to take up the baton from young warriors like Schleupner and move our nation toward a carbon-neutral environment within the next 20 years. A tax on sources/producers of carbon --mining and manufacturing --would be offset by payments to our citizens, with the objective of zero carbon emissions by 2035.

Imagine a world where our water would be drinkable and our air breathable for years into the future. No more coal-ash spills or oil tankers overturned, burning and spilling oil into our rivers. No more dependency on coal, gas or oil --foreign or domestic --with jobs created from natural power sources, and industries thriving by producing goods using machines powered by solar, wind and thermal energy.

Too good to be true? Talk to young people like Hannah Schleupner. They will tell you what they wish for, and it will probably be for just such a sustainable future. Imagine what it might be. Then let's try it, together. We may most certainly like it.

Lawrence H. Symonds, of Lynchburg, is a retired community organizer and helped lead the development of a local Citizens Climate Lobby chapter.

http://www.roanoke.com/opinion/commentary/symonds-listen-to-the-young-make-earth-sustainable/article_d5c42002-ea82-11e3-96a5-001a4bcf6878.html

USA Today

6/3/2014

Letter to Editor

Devone Tucker, Brockton

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Letters to the editor:

Last week, NPR interviewed C. Boyden Gray, one of the architects of the bipartisan cap-and-trade policy at the core of the 1990 Clean Air Act President George H.W. Bush signed into law to address acid rain. It was amazing to hear the interview because the Republican pedigree of cap-and-trade is not often acknowledged by today's GOP.

Then-Rep. Jim Inhofe voted for the 1990 Clean Air Act. In 2012, Inhofe told MSNBC's Rachel Maddow, "I was actually on your side of this issue (climate change) when I was chairing that committee, and I first heard about this. I thought it must be true until I found out what it cost." Too bad Inhofe, now a senator, seems so hostile to reducing carbon emissions, even efforts that would positively affect the economy, such as a revenue-neutral carbon fee. The science of climate change is still true, even if Inhofe doesn't want to admit it anymore.

Devone Tucker; Brockton, Mass.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/06/03/carbon-emissions-epa-your-say/9933117/>

The Republican

6/3/2014

Letter to Editor

Devone Tucker, Brockton

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Massachusetts finally embracing a clean energy future

Back in 2003, then-Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney declared that he would "not create jobs or hold jobs that kill people" at Massachusetts power plants.

Romney's views on coal and climate change may have shifted over the years, but those of us who thought he was right back then are relieved to see that Massachusetts is finally moving beyond coal, and embracing a clean energy future. The newly proposed EPA emissions standards, (Obama targets power plant pollutants, Springfield Republican, June 3, page A3) should help the rest of the country do the same.

Speaking of relief, it was interesting to read recently that one-time Cape Wind opponent and current Republican gubernatorial candidate Charlie Baker has reconsidered his rejection of the project. Apparently, Baker now realizes that with coal having collapsed in the Commonwealth, the state must take full advantage of Cape Wind's potential.

Eventually, those who hold federal office in Baker's party will have to recognize the need to move towards clean energy and if they oppose President Obama's climate efforts, they'll have to lay out their own market-based path to power that doesn't pollute.

Devone R. Tucker, Brockton

http://www.masslive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/06/letters_to_the_editor_64.html#incart_river_opinion

Appleton Post Crescent

6/3/2014

Letter to Editor

Judith Stadler

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Madison

Your recent editorial, "Wisconsin has serious stake in addressing climate change," shifts the spotlight from coastal flood-prone areas and the drought-stricken western United States. It brings the problem home to our state and rightly points to the effects on agriculture, lake temperatures, fish populations, flooding, pests and problems for the overall ecosystem. It's possible that part of the solution also lies in the resourcefulness of the Fox Valley.

If Congress would seriously decide to address this critical problem, the most effective thing it could do would be to establish a graduated carbon fee and dividend plan. Such a carbon tax would impact industries that contribute heavily to putting carbon into the atmosphere. But a carbon tax would also provide incentives to sustainable industries.

The Fox Valley has numerous businesses that already have a track record in working sustainably. Both the Boldt and Miron construction companies are leaders in sustainable building. The forestry industry and related wood-products industries play major roles in producing energy from biomass. Wouldn't it be great if the Fox Valley could be a hub of sustainability?

The key is getting Congress to take action to make things better for all the people of Wisconsin and the planet by passing a carbon tax. We're long past the time for climate science denial, buck-passing and politics as usual.

http://www.postcrescent.com/article/20140604/APC0601/306040093/Letters-Congress-needs-pass-carbon-tax-plan?nclick_check=1

Minneapolis Star Tribune

6/4/2014

Letter to Editor

Dr. Bruce Snyder

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MN Lakeville

ENERGY POLICY

At long last, action to fight climate change

Thank you, Mr. President, for taking aggressive, effective action to curtail climate change ("Obama to slash carbon pollution," June 2). The new EPA regulations on greenhouse gas emissions are a major step forward. You deserve our appreciation and respect for taking difficult but essential measures to protect the future for our children and grandchildren.

Bruce D. Snyder, Mendota Heights

Link NA

Salt Lake Tribune

6/4/2014

Letter to Editor

Kevin Leecaster

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter UT Salt Lake City

Letter: Carbon plan needs more teeth

It's a nice gesture to have U.S. EPA controls on carbon dioxide emissions being proposed, but regrettably this executive regulatory approach is doomed to legal delays so won't provide the immediate response needed in order to avoid impending impacts from our fossil fuel burning. As documented in several recent reports damaging climate impacts are already affecting our society and economy which is why all of the major militaries have incorporated climate impacts into their strategic guidance plans and cities like Norfolk, VA are requesting billions of dollars to prepare for rising sea levels.

The president was forced into this ineffective approach by our obstructionist legislature so we need to pressure our representatives to implement an effective market²-based approach that would trigger rapid, vigorous investment in renewable, clean energy development. The nonpartisan Citizens' Climate Lobby proposes setting a price on carbon at the source (wellhead, mine, or port of entry) to provide a disincentive to this pollution while returning this carbon fee back equally to all citizens to help them transition from fossil fuels. This dividend would be like the Alaska Permanent Fund program and could be implemented similarly to Bush's economic stimulus checks. Please contact your representative.

Kevin Leecaster

Salt Lake City

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/58017571-82/carbon-approach-climate-impacts.html.csp>

Los Angeles Times

6/4/2014

Letter to Editor

Peter Kalmus, Altadena

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Pasadena Foothills

The Obama administration's proposed rules for power plants are a start in addressing the global warming emergency, but regulations alone aren't enough. To address the most comprehensive threat the human race has ever faced, we need a more comprehensive approach.

A revenue-neutral carbon tax would correct the greatest market failure in history. Currently, fossil fuel producers and consumers dump emissions into the atmosphere for free, "externalizing" the massive cost of global warming.

A price per ton on emissions would correct this failure. The price would increase gradually over time, stimulating investment and jobs as industries, utilities and consumers switch to ever-more-affordable renewable energy alternatives. Yes, this would gradually raise the price at the pump, but 100% of the collected money would be returned to Americans. Those who burn less would put more money in the bank.

The sooner we get off fossil fuels, the better off we'll be.

Peter Kalmus

Altadena

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/readersreact/la-le-0604-wednesday-epa-carbon-coal-20140604-story.html>

Journal Inquirer

6/4/2014

Letter to Editor

Amelia M. Mariotti

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CT Manchester

Climate change debate

After reading in letters to the editor by John Stewart and Jim MacDonald about the battle of data about human-caused climate change, I recalled a 2010 paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The paper reviewed publication and citation data of over 1,000 climate researchers, then came to two conclusions. The first is that 97 to 98 percent of climate researchers who most actively publish in the field are convinced there is a cause-and-effect relationship between human activity and climate change. The second conclusion is that researchers convinced of human-caused climate change have greater climate expertise and scientific prominence than researchers who are unconvinced.

Nonetheless, the absence of absolute certainty affords the opportunity for climate skeptics to encourage doubt and inaction.

Here is where the precautionary principle is useful. According to this principle, when an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause-and-effect relationships are not fully established by scientists. The precautionary principle provides a framework for making prudent decisions based on scientific evidence that falls short of absolute certainty.

Perhaps translating the precautionary principle into common-sense terms would be helpful.

Imagine that for several weeks, you frequently felt lightheaded, dizzy, and short of breath. You see your primary care physician who, after an exam and initial tests, refers you to a cardiologist. After more tests, the cardiologist reports a diagnosis of ventricular fibrillation and recommends that you have a nonsurgical ablation procedure. When you ask for a second opinion, the cardiologist tells you about a new program that enables patients to receive a second opinion from a group of 100 specialists. After a thorough review of exam and test results, 97 specialists confirm the cardiologist's diagnosis and treatment recommendation. Three specialists tell you not to worry, everything is fine.

What would you do? Would you follow the advice of the majority of medical specialists or would you insist on absolute certainty and take the life-threatening risk of doing nothing?

Now ask the same question about climate change.

Amelia M. Mariotti

Manchester

http://www.journalinquirer.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/june-letters/article_67b6cf00-ebcd-11e3-bc7f-0019bb2963f4.html

San Diego Union Tribune

6/4/2014

Letter to Editor

Jeffrey Meyer, Poway

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA San Diego North

Regarding the editorial "The folly of presidential fiats" (June 2), judging by the response today in the media to new EPA rules, one would assume we are shutting down coal mining in America and putting everyone in bread lines. Instead, it is a minor adjustment by the EPA based on what they believe different states can achieve, using 2005 as the baseline for a 30 percent cut. This means it is a 15 percent cut from 2014 numbers.

Even the EPA says this will result in only a maximum savings of 0.02°C of global warming by 2100, and that is the high end estimate. In the end, coal we don't use will be exported to Germany and other countries switching from nuclear fuel to coal, and to countries like China and India.

We have to force Congress to enact cap and trade, as well as revenue neutral carbon taxes. New carbon treaties between the US, China and India have to be negotiated. Carbon import taxes on foreign goods as well as import license carbon fees have to be part of the discussions.

We are on the verge of an extinction level event and we are still fighting with the media over fossil fuel politics. What part of this crisis do they not get?

Jeffrey Meyer

Poway

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/jun/04/epa-emissions-obama/>

Syracuse New Times

6/4/2014

Article

Diane Williamson CCL member

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NY Syracuse

RANT- Voices from the Street

CLIMATE CHANGE IS SCARY, A CARBON TAX IS NOT

The National Climate Assessment was released recently. It details the observed and predicted effects of climate change in the United States. Scary stuff.

The panel predicted that warming could exceed 10 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of this century. That might seem like a long way off, but I have two young kids who will not even be out of high school until 2030. My grandkids will definitely feel the effects of global warming. If we are already experiencing "extended periods of unusual heat," just imagine them 10 degrees hotter.

Warmer weather means more droughts, like the current historic droughts in California and Texas. Droughts spell trouble not just for those who like to wash their cars and water their lawns. These droughts will raise food prices and put people out of work.

While I occasionally joke about in the future being able to grow real oranges in the orange grove at Syracuse University, real fruit farmers are not laughing. Do you remember the exceptionally warm, early spring in 2012, which caused apple trees to bloom too early and then die in a series of hard freezes, wiping out 60 percent of the apple harvest that year? There are similar problems to come, for all types of agriculture.

In addition, here in Syracuse we can expect more flooding, like the kind we had last summer, due to a rising frequency of torrential rains.

Understanding climate change is difficult because it involves predicting the future, and that can be done with only limited certainty. Nevertheless, all the climate simulations (which accurately model the present) predict negative consequences. The uncertainty could only be for the worse.

Scientists are as sure that fossil fuel use causes global warming as they are that smoking cigarettes causes cancer. Don't take my word for it: ask NASA. Its website is one of the best for measuring and explaining climate change.

We need to quit smoking. Well, smoking coal, oil, and natural gas, that is. Fortunately, there exists a relatively painless, free-market solution to this problem: Make it more expensive to put CO2 in the atmosphere.

Raising the price of cigarettes has done more to reduce the rate of cigarette smoking in the U.S., which is at a historic low, than all of the educational and health campaigns combined. Therefore, just like a tax on cigarettes, the answer is a carbon tax on the companies that sell fossil fuels. When it is more expensive to pollute, all of our economic attention we be directed at developing renewable energy.

Even if 97 percent of the climate scientists are wrong and climate change is a big conspiracy, a carbon tax is still a good idea. In creating a disincentive for fossil fuel energy (coal, oil and natural gas) and an incentive for the development of renewable resources, the fee promotes U.S. energy independence.

Proposed legislation (supported by the Syracuse Citizens Climate Lobby) turns the fee into a rebate for every American. The total collected from fossil fuel companies will be divided by the number of taxpayers; easy as pie, the check's in the mail. In other words, this proposal is revenue-neutral, so even Republicans who vowed never to raise taxes can support it.

Most importantly, the proposed legislation imposes a tariff on imports from countries without a similar carbon fee, to not disadvantage American production. Cynics say that China will never get on board, but this tariff effectively targets China. China already has a small carbon tax, which it would be prompted to increase.

A carbon fee is in the interests of ordinary Americans --through job creation in renewable energy, energy independence, and money in their pockets through rebate checks. Even if you are not scared about climate change, a carbon tax is a good idea.

Diane Williamson lives in Syracuse.

<http://www.syracusenewtimes.com/extend-moratorium-fracking/>

Jefferson City News Tribune

6/4/2014

Letter to Editor

George Laur, Holts Summit, Mo

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MO Jefferson City

Your Opinion: Critical choices on climate change

Dear Editor:

It was good to see “Weathering the storm” in the News Tribune on June 1. Based largely on the National Climate Assessment, it informs us that climate change is real, happening now and with mostly negative effects. What it missed is that we can choose from more than one scenario as we move forward. We can choose an all-of-the-above energy plan, or we can choose to move away from fossil fuels. Our choice matters.

On page 421 of the assessment, Figure 18.2 shows what temperatures will look like in mid-Missouri by mid-century with the all-of-the-above plan, where fossil fuel emissions continue to rise. We can plan on an additional 20 days a year with temperatures over 95 degrees F, compared with the late 20th century. Humidity will increase too, so the “feels-like” temperature, the one that causes heat-related deaths, will go up even more.

One study referenced in the assessment projected an increase of between 166 and 2,217 excess deaths per year from heat-related mortality in Chicago alone near the end of this century. The 166-death number is based on a choice to move away from fossil fuels, the 2,217-death number is based on the all-of-the-above plan.

University of Missouri’s Tony Lupo reduces concerns about our extreme weather events by calling them “just a little more variability.” Tell that to someone dying of heatstroke or drowning in polluted floodwaters.

Lupo reassures us that rising oceans won’t affect Missouri. Are we an economic island, disconnected from our coastal cities?

As one of the three percent of climate scientists who make light of climate change, Lupo is on the fossil-fuel funded Heartland Institute’s expert list for a reason.

His quote, “this thing about the Antarctic ice “ it hasn’t fallen yet,” provides an excuse for more inaction and fossil fuel profits.

Each day we are comforted by scientists and politicians in the pocket of the fossil-fuel industry is another day of lost opportunity to use the ingenuity, technology and resources we have to move to renewable clean energy.

New EPA regulations are a small step forward in reducing emissions from power plants. A revenue-neutral fee and dividend enacted by Congress would put our markets to work and reduce emissions faster, cheaper and in all economic sectors. Will our representation in Congress fight climate action or support it? Will fossil-fuel money speak louder than citizens? That choice is up to us.

<http://www.newstribune.com/news/2014/jun/11/your-opinion-critical-choices-climate-change/>

Kingston Daily Freeman

6/5/2014

Letter to Editor

Claire Cortright, Glen Spey, NY

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NY Upper Delaware Valley

LETTER: Obama emissions plan is step in right direction

Dear Editor:

Re "White House plan calls for huge cuts in carbon emissions from power plants," June 2, 2014: The EPA stressed that fighting climate change is dire, not just to protect a lovely planet with wonderful wildlife, but to protect our health, our homes, our economies and our jobs. This fight is not merely an environmentalist's fight. It is a fight for our own welfare and survival.

The proposed rules offer states flexibility and accommodate coal-reliant states more room for less cuts. They are beyond fair. They also aim for 30 percent cuts by 2030, below the 2005 levels. Scientists have made it plain that that is not enough. It is a fantastic start, but not enough.

President Obama should be applauded for striking out to lead the world, as this will place pressures on other countries to come to the table in international negotiations, ready to cut their own emissions more deeply.

However, we must demand that our legislators step up to the plate as well. Much more meaningful cuts to emissions can be achieved through a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend, with a border adjustment. Such legislation will tax all carbon (not just power plants) and 100 percent of the collected fees will be returned to all citizens equally. Any country wishing to import that does not have a comparable tax will be taxed at the border. Such legislation would be relatively simple to implement compared to the EPA rules proposed this week.

We must act.

Claire Cortright

Upper Delaware Valley

Citizens' Climate Lobby, Glen Spey, N.Y.

http://www.dailyfreeman.com/opinion/20140605/letter-obama-emissions-plan-is-step-in-right-direction#disqus_thread

Shwangunk Journal

6/5/2014

Letter to Editor

Claire Cortright, Glen Spey, NY

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NY Upper Delaware Valley

It IS Time We Limit Coal-Fired Plants

The EPA has stressed that fighting climate change is dire, not just to protect a lovely planet with wonderful wildlife, but to protect our health, our homes, our economies and our jobs. This fight is not merely an environmentalist's fight. It is a fight for our own welfare and survival.

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We must act.

Claire Cortright

Upper Delaware Valley Citizens' Climate Lobby

<http://www.shawangunkjournal.com/2014/06/12/news/1406126.html>

Austin American-Statesman

6/5/2014

Letter to Editor

Joep Meijer

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter TX Austin

We need to act now on global warming

Re: May 30 commentary, “

Carbon emission limits key to reducing global warming.”

If we had scientists discuss the need for action on climate change we would see one, two or three people who would doubt that we need to deal with climate change and 97 say yes, we need to.

That would be a very short debate with a very clear outcome. The most important step to take is to lower our emissions, today and not tomorrow, as these emissions have an impact that

extends beyond a hundred years. We can argue about how to do it, but we can't argue whether we should. We know that the electricity sector and the electricity that we all use is responsible for a big chunk of our carbon dioxide emissions, so it is one of the areas where we need to focus our attention. We are already seeing change happening in the industry. Here in Texas we can be proud of our wind power industry, and it will more than double in size in the next few years.

JOEP MEIJER, AUSTIN

<http://www.statesman.com/news/news/opinion/letters-to-the-editor-64/ngC6Y/>

The Cap Times

6/5/2014

Letter to Editor

Dan Dieterich, Stevens Point

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Central Wisconsin

Dan Dieterich: Climate change is our most important moral issue

Dear Editor: Did you know that Venus is twice as hot as Mercury, even though Venus is nearly twice as far from the Sun and so gets only one-quarter of the solar radiation Mercury gets?

You know why that is? Mercury doesn't have an atmosphere, but Venus has one rich in carbon dioxide. The atmosphere of Venus traps the heat it gets from the Sun, making it amazingly hot: 867 degrees Fahrenheit.

We have carbon dioxide here on Earth too. You and I exhale it with every breath. And that's good! It's why Earth's average temperature is 59 degrees Fahrenheit, just the right temperature to sustain life.

But we also emit carbon dioxide each time we burn fossil fuels. And that's bad! It's causing global warming, which affects Earth's ability to sustain life. Each time we burn fossil fuels, we spew carbon dioxide that stays in the atmosphere for 100 years, harming our grandchildren and their grandchildren too. That makes climate change the most important moral issue we face.

Climate scientists say the best way to reduce carbon dioxide is to put a price on carbon. A revenue-neutral carbon tax would have coal, oil, and gas companies pay a tax on the carbon in the fuels they pull out of the ground or import but then give all the money raised in equal amounts to American households. That would lower our carbon emissions substantially.

I urge you to tell Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson to support such a tax.

Dan Dieterich

Stevens Point

http://host.madison.com/ct/news/opinion/mailbag/dan-dieterich-climate-change-is-our-most-important-moral-issue/article_3ed5476a-b696-5f76-8d14-4a3164502f72.html

Tu Decides

6/5/2014

Article

Jim Amonette and Steve Ghan, Tri-Cities

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WA Tri-cities

ASUNTOS DEL CLIMA: Las causas, impactos y soluciones para el cambio climático Por Steve Ghan, científico en clima y Jim Amonette, científico geólogo

El planeta Tierra ha sido llamado “el planeta de Ricitos de Oro”, con un promedio de temperatura “en su punto” para poder lograr la vida, pero nuestro clima no ha sido siempre como el clima que tenemos hoy en día. Por varios cientos de miles de años hemos estado alternando entre eras de hielo, con temperaturas hasta 10 grados Fahrenheit más frías a lo que tenemos hoy, y periodos calientes, con temperaturas comparables con las del presente. Estos cambios climáticos fueron desencadenados por cambios en la órbita de la Tierra que causaron ligeros cambios en el suministro de energía por parte del Sol, y amplificaron cambios progresivos en las concentraciones de gases de invernadero y en la extensión de las capas polares.

Pero los cambios en la órbita de la Tierra no son los únicos causantes de cambio climático, ni siquiera son la causa dominante. Previo a ese suceso, la actividad volcánica, los desbalances entre la actividad de la flora y la fauna, y hasta la liberación de grandes cantidades de metano almacenado en las profundidades del océano causaron que variaran significativamente los niveles atmosféricos de gases de invernadero y que variara la temperatura de la Tierra. Por ejemplo, durante la era de los dinosaurios, los niveles atmosféricos de dióxido de carbono llegaron a ser tres veces más altos de lo que lo son hoy. El clima de la Tierra estuvo hasta 22 grados Fahrenheit arriba de lo que está hoy!

En este punto del ciclo, la Tierra debería estar enfriándose de nuevo. Sin embargo, el ciclo actual es distinto, porque la cantidad de gases de invernadero en la atmósfera se ha incrementado en un 40% sobre el máximo cíclico, en lugar de estar descendiendo como en ciclos previos. El incremento está siendo causado exclusivamente por actividad humana, especialmente por la quema de combustibles fósiles, pero también por prácticas agrícolas que están liberando carbón guardado en tierras y bosques.

Un mundo más caliente afectaría nuestras vidas de muchas formas. Algunos cambios (como una temporada de cosecha más prolongada o la fertilización de los cultivos por el dióxido de carbono) podrían beneficiar a algunos. Pero sería muy costoso o quizá imposible adaptarse a otros cambios, como la elevación en el nivel del mar, la pérdida de aguas provenientes del derretimiento de nieve para poder irrigar, tormentas tropicales más violentas, y sequías más prolongadas.

En las próximas columnas estaremos discutiendo estos impactos y sugeriremos formas accesibles de prevenirlas.

Ambos Steve Ghan y Jim Amonette son voluntarios en el Capítulo de Tri-Cities, Washington del Lobby Climático Ciudadano, www.citizensclimatelobby.org. Email:

wash.tricities@citizensclimatelobby.org

<http://tudecidesmedia.com/asuntos-del-clima-las-causas-impactos-y-soluciones-para-el-cambio-climti-p5830-128.htm>

Tu Decides

6/5/2014

Article

Jim Amonette and Steve Ghan, Tri-Cities, WA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WA Tri-cities

This is an article that appears monthly in the online newspaper, Tu Decides, entitled, "CLIMATE MATTERS" written by members of the Tri-Cities, WA Citizens Climate Lobby.

CLIMATE MATTERS: The causes, impacts and solutions to climate change

By Steve Ghan, climate scientist and Jim Amonette, earth scientist

Earth has been called the “Goldilocks planet”, with an average temperature “just right” for life, but our climate has not always been the same as it is now. For several hundred thousand years we have alternated between ice ages, with temperatures up to ten degrees F cooler than today, and warm periods, with temperatures comparable to the present. These climatic changes were triggered by changes in the orbit of the Earth that caused slight variations in the supply of energy from the Sun, and amplified by progressive changes in greenhouse gas concentrations and in the extent of the polar ice caps.

But changes in the Earth’s orbit are not the only trigger of climate change, nor even the dominant one. Earlier on, volcanic activity, imbalances between plant and animal activity, and even the release of large quantities of methane stored at the bottom of the oceans caused greenhouse gas levels and the Earth’s temperature to vary significantly from those of the past several ice ages. For example, during the age of the dinosaurs, atmospheric carbon dioxide levels reached three times higher than today, and the Earth’s climate warmed by as much as 22 degrees F!

At this point in its orbital cycle, the Earth should be cooling again. The current cycle is unique, however, because the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has increased by 40% from the cyclic maximum, rather than decreasing as in previous cycles. The increase is entirely caused by human activity””primarily the burning of “fossil” fuels, but also agricultural practices that release carbon stored in soils and forests. Judging by the past, this increase in greenhouse gas levels will dominate climate response and the Earth’s climate will warm significantly. Unless we act soon to reverse the trend, greenhouse gas levels by the end of this century are expected to reach nearly three times those seen at the cyclic maximum, and the Earth’s temperature could be up to 10 degrees F warmer.

A warmer world would affect our lives in many ways. Some changes (longer growing season, crop fertilization by carbon dioxide) could benefit some people. But it would be very costly or impossible to adapt to other changes such as large rise in sea level, loss of summer snowmelt for irrigation, stronger tropical storms, more flooding, and longer droughts.

In the next few columns we'll discuss these impacts and suggest affordable ways to prevent them.

Both Steve Ghan and Jim Amonette are volunteers with the Tri-Cities, Washington chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby, www.citizensclimatelobby.org. Email: wash.tricities@citizensclimatelobby.org.

<http://tudecidesmedia.com/climate-matters-the-causes-impacts-and-solutions-to-climate-change-p5831-128.htm>

New Orleans Advocate

6/5/2014

Letter to Editor

Stephanie Brown

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter LA New Orleans

Letter: Climate change awareness is critical

I would like to thank you for reporting on the threat posed by climate change to Louisiana's coast in the recent article, "Our Views: Our Coast Under Threat."

Louisiana's economy is largely fueled by the oil and gas industries and they are seen as a boon. At some point, in the very near future, economic gains will be canceled out by the cost of reconstruction related to extreme weather events.

Companies would be forced to invest in finding sources of renewable energy and using sources already available if the market demanded it. A carbon fee and dividend will provide proper motivation for companies to make such investments. Citizens Climate Lobby proposes that a fee be placed on fossil fuels, based on the CO2 content, at the first point of sale and that revenue from the fee be returned to the public as a monthly or annual payment to protect households from the increased cost of fuel.

This is a market-based solution in direct opposition to the alternative of over-regulation.

Climate change is happening and coastal regions in particular must take the lead in combating this issue.

Stephanie Brown

student

Natchitoches

<http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/opinion/9309278-171/letter-climate-change-awareness-is>

Rappahannock Record - Kilmarnock VA

6/5/2014

Letter to Editor

Gregory T Haugan, Heathsville, VA, Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter VA Northern Neck

Reduce Carbon Emissions to Slow Global Warming

A recent letter had a few comments on climate change. The writer is opposed to a carbon tax and rightly so if the revenues end up in the hands of the government. The revenues need to be returned totally to households. The writer had other comments about soot and the US land area.

The soot that causes pollution on the leading edge of airplane wings does not float off into space. It is washed out of the air by rain or falls out naturally in a few days due to gravity. It causes two problems: the soot particles absorb sunlight and directly heat the surrounding air; and when it falls on snow or ice it changes those reflecting surfaces into absorbing ones. It is a short term contributor to global warming.

Yes, as the writer indicates, the US only has a small percentage of the world land mass; however carbon emissions are related to economic activity and population. China is the largest emitter with about 30% and the US is second with 16% and the European Union with 11%. China passed us in 2006 in terms of total CO2 emissions. The amount of global warming is related to the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere, which has increased by 40%. The physics of this was documented in 1895.

We are fortunate here in Virginia, we have not yet had serious impacts from climate change, but just take a flight over west Texas or California to see the drought, or over the forests of the Rockies to see the wild fires, or the devastation around the world from floods. Scientists have tied these directly to global warming.

The culprit is human generated CO2, and the way to reduce the usage of something is to make it more expensive.

Gregory T Haugan, PhD, Heathsville,

N/A Newspaper has link but no opinion pieces are included

San Diego Union Tribune

6/5/2014

Letter to Editor

David Engel, Solana Beach

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA San Diego North

EPA EMISSIONS RULES ARE GOOD NEWS

Regarding the editorial "The folly of presidential fiats" (June 3): let's be clear --the Supreme Court has ruled that CO₂ is a pollutant and the EPA is obliged by law to regulate its release.

Furthermore, there is no scientific question that CO₂ and other greenhouse gases are affecting Earth's climate. Total emissions have grown annually for decades and are now at a dangerous level.

Coal-fired power plants produce twice the CO₂ pollution as natural-gas plants, and are as expensive (or more so) to operate. Solar and wind energy have also become highly competitive in price to coal.

The U-T says that eliminating the oldest, dirtiest coal-fired plants will pose serious economic hardship. In fact, economic studies show only slight changes in the cost of power from the new rules.

While the new EPA rules will not alone solve the problem they should set the tone for negotiations with other countries.

David Engel

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/jun/05/letters-to-the-editor-demaio-bergdahl-epa/>

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

6/5/2014

Letter to Editor

Carrie Scherpelz CCL Madison

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Madison

U.S. leading on climate change

I wholeheartedly agree with the Journal Sentinel editorial: "EPA emissions rule pushes U.S. in the right direction," (Our View, June 3).

I'm thrilled to see the United States taking the lead at this critical point in the history of our planet. In fact, the day after the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed rule was announced, China said it plans to limit its total CO2 emissions for the first time. My hope is that our action will tip off a cascade of measures by other countries.

I say let's be even bolder in our leadership. Let's not shrink back from leading in the right direction, toward a cleaner global economy, a peaceful climate of international cooperation and green jobs for us and for our children.

As a next step, let's put a price on carbon emissions so other nations will follow. When they join us in creating a financial incentive to reduce emissions, the free market will spur the innovation and new technologies we need to move forward.

We are still a great nation willing to take on any challenge. Right?

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/your-views-b99284455z1-262052601.html>

Marshfield News Herald

6/5/2014

Letter to Editor

Dave Smith

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Central Wisconsin

Climate change denial puts us at risk

EDITOR: On May 6, the U.S. Global Change Research Program released its 2014 National Climate Assessment. It reinforces what 97 percent of all climate scientists and over 200 national science academies across the world say: The burning of fossil fuels is changing the earth's climate and is already affecting the United States. It is affecting our lives through its impacts on our health, water, food, economy and national security.

Since 1980, the United States has seen a fivefold increase of extreme weather events. Drought and extreme rain events cost taxpayers over \$60 billion in 2012.

The ongoing drought in California and Texas has raised food prices and is expected to increase another 6 percent.

In March, the Department of Defense cited climate change as linked to our national security, water, food, energy and economic security. Tom Ridge, former Secretary of Homeland Defense under George W. Bush, told Pennsylvania's Patriot News, "The U.S. national security community, including leaders from the military, homeland security and intelligence, understand that climate change is a national security threat. They're not talking about whether or not it is occurring --it is."

Those who call these facts a "theory" fail to understand that the scientific evidence linking burning of fossil fuels to climate change is stronger than the evidence that links cancer to smoking tobacco.

Dave Smith,

Marshfield

<http://www.marshfieldnewsherald.com/article/20140606/MNH06/306060121/Letter-Climate-change-denial-puts-us-risk>

Wausau Daily Herald

6/5/2014

Letter to Editor

Dave Smith

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Central Wisconsin

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Dave Smith,

Marshfield

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20140606/WDH06/306060116/Letter-Climate-change-denial-puts-us-risk>

Tallahassee Democrat

6/5/2014

Op-Ed

LucyAnn Walker-Fraser CCL Tallahassee

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter FL Tallahassee

This excellent piece appeared in the Tallahassee Democrat June 13:

Gov. Rick Scott and U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio have expressed concern that the EPA's approach of regulating carbon pollution, as announced last week, will destroy our economy.

Now, a new nonpartisan study gives free-market Republicans a way to regulate carbon that will set these fears to rest.

Although Rubio states that the science about the human-caused global warming is not settled, polls show that a majority of Floridians accept the overwhelming consensus of scientists that it is happening and it is caused by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels. However, the new study shows that Republican leaders don't even have to accept human-caused global warming to support an approach that will create jobs and save lives by reducing carbon pollution.

If Republicans like Rep. Steve Southerland, R-Panama City, and Rubio, R-Florida, don't want more EPA regulations, their best recourse is to deliver a revenue-neutral carbon tax, the approach supported by conservative economists.

A new economic study by Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) released this week shows that a steadily rising tax on carbon that returns the revenue to households would create jobs and have a greater impact on reducing carbon emissions than simply regulating emissions of power plants. This approach would add 2.1 million jobs over 10 years while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33 percent. Over 20 years, it would decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 52 percent.

The nonpartisan Citizens Climate Lobby and Citizens Climate Education Corp. hired REMI, a leader in economic modeling, for the study because they are truly nonpartisan, having done economic analyses for clients as diverse as the American Gas Association, the Nuclear Energy Institute, the National Federation of Independent Business, and the National Education Association.

The general assumption, until now, has been that solutions to address global warming will slow the economy and lead to loss of jobs. The new REMI study turns that assumption upside down, showing that a carbon tax --if done the right way --will grow the economy and add jobs. The right way is a revenue-neutral carbon tax, which means that it does not increase government programs or expand the government sector. All revenues collected from carbon polluters are returned to households, and the economy is spurred as households have more disposable income to spend on products other than fossil fuels. A revenue-neutral carbon tax provides incentives for both producers and consumers to find ways to maximize efficiency and minimize the use of carbon-intensive fossil fuels.

Polls show a bipartisan majority of Americans support action to reduce the greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. If our Republican representatives embrace this approach, they can assume leadership on this important issue with a free-market approach that will reduce carbon pollution while at the same time creating jobs and growing the economy.

LucyAnn Walker-Fraser is a retired legislative policy analyst and a member of the Tallahassee Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby. Contact her at lucyann048@gmail.com.

<http://www.tallahassee.com/story/opinion/columnists/2014/06/12/lucyann-walker-fraser-consider-carbon-tax/10396165/>

Daily Record

6/5/2014

Letter to Editor

Philippa Solomon, Edison, NJ

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NJ Edison

Carbon tax best option to reduce emissions

In the face of continued inaction on the part of Congress, it's good to see that President Obama has directed the EPA to issue new regulations requiring a substantial reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by power plants, which are major sources of carbon dioxide pollution. It's also good to see strong support for the administration's climate policies from Congressman Frank Pallone, a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce and Natural Resources committees.

The effects of climate change are already being seen, with an increase in number and severity of storms, and with glaciers, Arctic sea ice, and the Antarctic ice shelf all melting.

While the proposed rules are a very welcome advance, in light of the most recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions at a much greater rate if we are to avoid serious consequences. One way to do this would be via a revenue-neutral carbon tax, which would be levied at the carbon source (mine, well, or import terminal). The tax collected would be returned to all households equally so that those who used less energy would end up saving money, while those who use more energy pay more. The success of this approach has been demonstrated by the Canadian province of British Columbia, which instituted a revenue-neutral carbon tax in 2008. Since that time, carbon emissions in British Columbia have declined by 10 percent, while the GDP is on a par with the rest of Canada.

To ensure our children and grandchildren a climate that can support civilized life, we need to do all in our power to curb carbon emissions as soon as possible. Unless there is a better proposal put forward, we should institute a revenue-neutral carbon tax with all deliberate speed.

Philippa H. Solomon

EDISON

<http://www.dailyrecord.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/06/05/pollution-tax/9963491/>

Courier News

6/5/2014

Letter to Editor

Philippa Solomon, Edison, NJ

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NJ Edison

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Philippa H. Solomon

EDISON

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/06/05/pollution-tax/9963085/>

Home News Tribune

6/5/2014

Letter to Editor

Philippa Solomon, Edison, NJ

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NJ Edison

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Philippa H. Solomon

EDISON

<http://www.mycentraljersey.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/06/05/pollution-tax/9963085/>

The Sacramento Bee

6/6/2014

Letter to Editor

Rich Howard, Carmichael

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Impose a carbon tax

Re "Insiders get green energy millions" (Dan Morain, June 1); "Brown's march to an alternative energy future" (Tom Hayden, June 1): Dan Morain's look at the unintended consequences of Assembly Bill 2267 of 2008 and the Self Generation Incentive Program reveals the danger of subjecting climate change solutions to the money-driven political process. There is an alternative way to support alternative energy that works without enriching the companies or the 1 percent, a revenue neutral carbon tax. A fee would be charged where a fossil fuel is extracted, and the revenue generated from the carbon fee would be returned to citizens. As Tom Hayden's column points out, many solutions will be needed to slow down greenhouse gas emissions, and California can take the lead in ways that ripple out into our nation and the world. Support for a revenue neutral carbon tax at the state and national level will lead to a more equitable solution than the current schemes that enrich the already wealthy.

-- Rich Howard, Carmichael

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/06/6451066/alternative-energy-alternative.html>

Boston Herald

6/6/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

June 6: Letters to the Editor

Congress must act

Thanks for Jordan Graham's great article on changes to the Hub's infrastructure in preparation for ever rising seas ("Climate turns tides on Hub development," June 1). However, if the country and world do not do enough to lower emissions, the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets will melt faster than anticipated and, according to Dr. James Hansen, we could see 15 feet or more sea level rise by 2100. There is no way for the city to adjust the Hub's infrastructure to endure 15 foot sea level rise.

Instead, all residents should exert pressure on Congress to enact legislation to lower emissions more effectively and efficiently than the Environmental Protection Agency can. Bipartisan congressional legislation will meet with more success than EPA regulations that will be resisted by states, and Congress can include provisions taxing foreign imports if they come from countries not aggressively lowering their own emissions.

--Judy Weiss, Brookline

http://bostonherald.com/news_opinion/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/2014/06/june_6_letters_to_the_editor

The Gainesville Sun

6/6/2014

Letter to Editor

Josh Dickinson - Gainesville, FL

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter FL Gainesville

Educated Decisions

Scientific skepticism is healthy, and true scientists always challenge themselves and their peers to make certain they've got it right. In contrast, politically motivated climate change deniers, like our governor and Sen. Marco Rubio, offer no scientific evidence to support their position. Fossil fuel industry billionaires like the Koch brothers are key denial supporters.

The two guest columns in Monday's Sun offer welcome fact-based insights on climate change, from both a local and global perspective. In Gainesville, we are fortunate to have the opportunity to learn about climate issues from an array of respected scientists and thus make educated decisions for ourselves.

The Citizen's Climate Lobby has chapters throughout the country. The group meets monthly at the Main Library downtown with scientists from around the world via the Internet to focus on different aspects of climate change. Check out CCLGainesville on Facebook or contact btancig@gmail.com for specific information.

Joshua C. Dickinson

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20140606/OPINION02/140609802/1017?Title=Letters-to-the-Editor-for-June-6-2014&tc=ar>

Baltimore Sun

6/6/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

A nation united can reduce carbon emissions [Letter]

Your editorial on the EPA carbon rules reminding readers that they are a proven commodity and already have worked to lower emissions in the Northeastern states was excellent ("Carbon rules can work," June 2).

We're delighted that the rest of the country will finally be working with us to lower our nation's emissions. It will be wonderful that we no longer have to sue Western states for inundating us with their harmful emissions.

We are one nation, and we should be working together for the greater good.

Judy Weiss, Brookline, Mass.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/readersrespond/bs-ed-carbon-epa-20140604,0,181764.story>

Sacramento Bee

6/8/2014

Letter to Editor

Harold Ferber, Elk Grove, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Impose a carbon tax

The Environmental Protection Agency announced its draft power plant greenhouse gas regulations, targeting a 30 percent cut in emissions from 2005 levels by the 2030. Republicans have indicated their opposition.

The regulations will allow states flexibility in how they achieve emission reductions. One solution would be a revenue neutral carbon tax. A fee would be charged in which a fossil fuel is extracted and all of the revenue generated would be returned to citizens.

This solution is consistent with conservative Republican principles. It does not increase the size of government, it could be implemented without creating new government bureaucracies and new complex regulatory schemes, it does not seek to pick winning technological solutions, rather it allows the free market to determine how best to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Finally, it is the least costly solution for climate change. A solution Republicans can love. What's not to like?

Harold Ferber, Elk Grove

Link n/a

Austin American-Statesman

6/8/2014

Letter to Editor

Anna Graybeal, Austin, TX

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter TX Austin

Hail efforts to curb greenhouse gases

Re: June 4 commentary, "CO2 reduction plan welcome, overdue."

I was pleased to read the American-Statesman editorial board's support for the EPA's proposed limits on greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. We can be sure that most members of our Texas congressional delegation will follow suit with Gov. Rick Perry in decrying the damage such regulations will do to our economy, and I especially appreciated the editorial board for making the case that such protestations are unfounded.

Nonetheless, if addressing the need for emissions via government regulations is not to their taste, I hope representatives such as Lamar Smith, Michael McCaul, John Carter, Bill Flores and Roger Williams will keep in mind that there is a far simpler market-friendly solution: a revenue-neutral carbon tax. If they believe government should get out of the way to solve our biggest problems, they should lead the way by proposing this market-driven solution, widely agreed upon by economists as the most efficient way to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

ANNA GRAYBEAL, AUSTIN

<http://www.statesman.com/news/news/opinion/letters-to-the-editor-6814/ngFx3/>

Sacramento Bee

6/8/2014

Letter to Editor

Rich Howard, Carmichael, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Keep profit out of climate solutions

Re “Insiders get green energy millions” (Dan Morain, June 1) and “Brown’s march to an alternative energy future” (Viewpoints, June 1): Dan Morain’s look at the unintended consequences of Assembly Bill 2267 of 2008 and the Self Generation Incentive Program reveals the danger of subjecting climate-change solutions to the money-driven political process.

There is an alternative way to support alternative energy that works without enriching the companies or the 1 percent: a revenue-neutral carbon tax.

A fee would be charged where a fossil fuel is extracted, and the revenue generated from the carbon fee would be returned to citizens.

As Tom Hayden’s column points out, many solutions will be needed to slow down greenhouse gas emissions, and California can take the lead in ways that ripple out into our nation and the world.

Support for a revenue-neutral carbon tax at the state and national level would lead to a more equitable solution than the current schemes that enrich the already wealthy.

Rich Howard, Carmichael

n/a. Hard Copy (Sunday Forum section)

Lincoln Journal Star

6/8/2014

Letter to Editor

Laurel Van Ham, Lincoln

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NE Lincoln

Parade of coal trains stunning

Last week my daughter and I shared a once-in-a-lifetime adventure as she cycled her way across Nebraska and I followed as her support. Stopping every 15 to 20 miles to refill water bottles and tuck more energy bars into her jersey pockets, we often found ourselves breathless --not with exertion, but with awe --at the stunning beauty of Nebraska's landscape.

In stark contrast, we were also stunned by the almost endless parade of trains carrying the coal that provides so much of this state's electricity. I was on vacation and didn't want to think about the ways our power plants' carbon emissions jeopardize our children's health, our national security, our economy, and eventually even Nebraska's landscape --but those trains were hard to ignore.

If we can't manage without electric power, we must find more sustainable ways of producing it. The monetary, human and natural costs of climate change escalate daily with our procrastination.

Nebraska's members of Congress could earn themselves a hero's legacy by having the foresight and courage to support strong legislation to curb our dependence on fossil fuels and promote the development of renewable energy without further delay.

Laurel Van Ham, Lincoln

http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-parade-of-coal-trains-stunning/article_f50e8c2e-1a73-5ea8-b459-3d7dfe9d29fa.html

Wausau Daily Herald

6/8/2014

Op-Ed

Dan Dieterich, Stevens Point

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Central Wisconsin

New EPA regulations won't be enough to fight global warming: column

Carbon tax is needed, and that requires Congress

President Obama recently announced new Environmental Protection Agency regulations that would reduce carbon dioxide pollution from America's coal-fired power plants 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. Power plants account for 38 percent of America's carbon pollution.

Obama said he took this action because he felt a moral responsibility to fight climate change. I respect that, and given the seriousness of the climate crisis, I'm grateful he took this step.

But it will not be nearly enough.

There has already been a 15 percent reduction in U.S. power plant carbon dioxide emissions since the 2005 base year President Obama established. So, the Carbon Tax Center estimates that if the regulations reach their target, the U.S. will reduce the total amount of U.S. carbon dioxide pollution by only 7 percent of what we produced last year.

There are three other problems with the proposed regulations:

First, all states wouldn't have to follow the new regulations until 2020, and legal challenges could delay the regulations for years after that. We can't wait that long to respond to the climate crisis.

Second, while climate change affects everyone, it has the greatest negative effect on people who are poor. The EPA regulations will increase energy prices but provide no way for poor people to pay for more expensive energy.

Third, while the regulations would reduce the 38 percent of carbon dioxide emitted by American power plants, they won't even touch the other 62 percent of carbon dioxide we emit.

That's why Congress needs to take a market-based approach to dealing with 100 percent of the sources of carbon dioxide pollution: a carbon tax.

Congress could implement such a tax quickly, especially since Republicans who oppose additional federal regulations could support a carbon tax if it were revenue-neutral (meaning it wouldn't add to the federal budget).

Wealthy Americans use three to four times as much carbon-based energy as poor Americans do, so a revenue neutral carbon tax that returns all the money it raises to households in equal amounts would benefit poor Americans more than wealthy Americans.

The Carbon Tax Center points out that Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash., plans to introduce a carbon tax bill this week that would, according to the Carbon Tax Center's modeling by 2030 reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 41 percent from 2005 levels, and would reduce the carbon dioxide emissions without the tax by 37 percent.

Note that the reduction would be of all future carbon dioxide emissions --not just those from power plants.

Such a steadily-rising carbon tax would be far more effective at putting the brakes on climate change.

A carbon tax would also encourage growth in clean energies such as wind and solar.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, solar power accounted for 74 percent of all new electric generating capacity in the first quarter of this year --enough to power three million homes. It was the second-largest quarter for U.S. solar installations in history. Home photovoltaic installations exceeded commercial installations for the first time since 2002, and utilities installed over 270 percent as much solar as they did in the first quarter of 2013 --perhaps in anticipation of the proposed EPA regulations.

A November 2012 guest post on Forbes.com predicted that solar might be "America's fastest-growing job-creation engine." A carbon tax would further boost investment in the clean power industry, which would then provide more jobs"and better paying jobs"than the fossil fuel industry does.

The proposed EPA rules allow states to select the method that they use to comply with the regulations. A statewide revenue-neutral carbon tax would be an excellent method for Wisconsin to select.

We'd also be wise to urge U.S. Reps. Sean Duffy and Ron Kind as well as U.S. Sens. Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin to step up and support a national revenue-neutral carbon tax.

Dan Dieterich of Stevens Point is the leader of the central Wisconsin chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby.

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20140608/WDH06/306080219/New-EPA-regulations-won-t-enough-fight-global-warming-column>

Isthmus

6/8/2014

Letter to Editor

Carol Steinhart

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Madison

Party on!

A lovely dream, "no political parties" ("Imagine There's No Parties," 5/30/2014), but dreams are good! I've been imagining the dream group I would affiliate with, and much of it is like Dave Cieslewicz's: gun control, strong public schools, reproductive rights, workers' rights, voting rights, sustainable agriculture, and climate change action.

With the recent media attention to climate change and more and more people appreciating the seriousness of the problem, I believe the political will exists to do something, but not in the context of the current party system. Spurred by my imaginary group, we might even achieve a revenue-neutral carbon tax, which ought to please both parties! Such a tax would be a real incentive for other steps, all based on the goal of leaving fossil fuels in the ground.

Link na

Democrat and Chronicle

6/8/2014

Letter to Editor

Dr Peter Mott

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NY Rochester

Letter: Climate change an urgent issue

The public issue which most urgently needs to be discussed is global climate change. International scientific associations speak of the oceans rising by six or more feet by 2999. The Antarctic is melting alarmingly.

Suzanne Goldenberg wrote (The Guardian, 2013), "The climate crisis ... has been caused largely by just 90 companies." These companies "have produced 63 percent of the cumulative global emissions of industrial carbon dioxide and methane," including 50 investor-owned firms. Moreover, Goldenberg quotes Harvard professor Naomi Oreskes that, "several of the top companies on the list had funded the climate denial movement."

There are growing calls for divestment in energy companies producing fossil fuels. Rabbi Judy Weiss (May 20 letter to the editor) wrote, "Congress must act on carbon." She urges a carbon tax be "paid by fossil fuel producers" and rebated to households."

Do we have the will to push Congress? Do we care about our grandchildren's future?

DR. PETER MOTT

ROCHESTER

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/opinion/letters/2014/06/08/letter-climate-change-urgent-issue/10102273/>

Rutland Herald

6/9/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Carbon tax helps economy

Thanks for another fabulous article by Robin Chesnut-Tangerman, "Watching the House Burn." He mentioned that people fear the cost of acting to reduce carbon emissions is too high. He then countered with the very true claim that not acting on climate change costs even more in lost crops and damage from storms. But there is a stronger response to the fear that cutting emissions is too expensive.

A study by REMI (Regional Economic Models Inc) of the economic effects of a gradually increasing carbon tax collected from fossil fuel producers and rebated 100 percent to the public indicates such a tax can create jobs and grow the economy. REMI's report to be released June 9 forecasts a carbon tax can increase national employment by 2.1 million more jobs after 10 years.

It has long been true that the fears of acting on environmental issues will hurt our pocketbook. But actually it can be turned into a fantastic opportunity to grow the economy in exciting new directions by enacting a carbon tax with rebate.

For more information on revenue-neutral carbon taxes and the REMI study, please contact Citizens' Climate Lobby.

JUDY WEISS

Brookline, Mass.

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/20140609/OPINION02/706099975>

Huffington Post

6/9/2014

Article

Mark Reynolds, CA Headquarters

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Headquarters

New Study Shows No More Excuses to Reject Fee on Carbon

Beneath the hyperbolic rhetoric and pushback last week surrounding the new EPA regulations to limit carbon emissions is a fundamental truth that can no longer be ignored: Inaction is not an option on global warming. If critics think EPA regulations are a bad idea, they have to come up with a better one or hold their tongue.

In other words, it's time to put up or shut up on global warming solutions.

One of the solutions that continues to get a bum rap is a fee on carbon, which Republicans routinely associate with the term "job killer."

Beginning today, however, such unqualified claims can no longer be made. That's because a new study from Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), shows that a steadily-rising fee on fossil fuels, with revenue returned to households, will actually add 2.1 million jobs in the U.S. over the next 10 years while reducing greenhouse gas emissions 33 percent.

Since 1980, REMI has provided economic impact studies for governmental and private-sector clients including the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), consulting firm Ernst & Young, the California Department of Finance, the University of Michigan, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

Translation: REMI has a reputation to uphold, and if they didn't do quality work, they wouldn't attract the kind of prestigious clients who seek their services.

The REMI study looked at the economic impact of a steadily-rising national fee on carbon-based fuels that returns revenue in equal shares to all households. The fee, applied at the point of extraction or import, would start at \$10 per ton of CO₂ and increase by \$10 per ton each year. Border tariffs, to keep the global playing field level for U.S. companies and discourage off-shoring of carbon emissions, were factored in. Revenue from the tax was divided in equal shares, with one share going to each adult and one half share going to each child, up to two children per household.

By giving all the revenue back to households - which shields families from the economic impact of higher energy costs - we can allow the fee to rise to a level that achieves the much-needed reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. By 2035, according to the REMI study, the escalating carbon fee will reduce emissions by 52 percent, putting us on track for the mid-century target of the 80 percent reductions necessary to avoid busting the "carbon budget" that limits warming to manageable and adaptable levels.

Other findings from the REMI study:

National employment increases by 2.8 million after 20 years. This is more than a 1% increase in total US employment we don't get without a carbon fee.

Because of improved air quality, 13,000 lives are saved annually after 10 years, with a cumulative 227,000 American lives saved over 20 years.

\$70-85 billion increase in GDP from 2020 on, with a cumulative increase in national GDP due to fee-and-dividend of 1.375 trillion.

Size of monthly dividend for a family of four with two adults in 2025 is 288; in 2035 it's 396. Annually, this is 3,456 per family of four in 2025.

Electricity prices peak in 2026, then start to decline.

Maximum cost-of-living increase by 2035 is 1.7-2.5%, depending on region.

Real incomes increase by more than \$500 per person in 2025. This increase accounts for cost of living increases.

Electricity generation from coal is phased-out by 2025.

The significance of this study cannot be overstated: A highly respected economic modeling firm has found that a fee on carbon, if done the right way, will actually add jobs and improve the economy. This changes the whole conversation around global warming and the remedies to limit its impact.

It comes at a time when Republicans and coal-state Democrats are attacking the new EPA regulations to limit greenhouse gas emissions at power plants, threatening to challenge the rules through congressional and judicial action. But such threats will prove rather empty: President Obama wields the veto pen, and EPA is currently battling 1,000 with challenges before the Supreme Court.

If Republicans and some Democrats are serious about avoiding new regulations - and the expansion of government that comes with it - they have one recourse: Enact a market-based solution that is revenue-neutral.

With carbon fee-and-dividend, they have a solution endorsed by no less than former Reagan Secretary of State George Shultz. Other conservative economists, like George W. Bush economic adviser Greg Mankiw, also support a revenue-neutral fee on carbon. They see it as the most efficient and effective way to bring down greenhouse gas emissions because it corrects the distortion in the marketplace that leaves polluters unaccountable for the real cost of fossil fuels. Correct this distortion, they say, and the free market will work its magic.

For those seeking for an alternative to EPA regulations, look no further. Excuses for inaction, lame as they were to begin with, are now neutralized, thanks to the REMI study.

Follow Mark Reynolds on Twitter: www.twitter.com/citizensclimate

More:

Climate Change Carbon Tax Climate Change EPA

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mark-reynolds/new-study-shows-no-more-e_b_5470057.html#

The Patriot News / Penn Live

6/9/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss (Brookline)

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

John Pippy, of the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance, objects to EPA regulations because they will lead to less coal use. He presents data of the economic hardship regulations will cause, but fails to present the economic hardships from pollution that will grow more severe if fossil fuel pollution isn't curtailed.

Pippy wants U.S. government policy to protect coal, ensuring coal stays in our energy mix, no matter what. As a Republican, surely Pippy believes in the free market.

Therefore, he knows the best policy to protect the environment and allow coal a chance to stay in the mix, is a national carbon tax. The carbon tax, paid by fossil fuel producers, should be rebated to U.S. households. A recent study by REMI of a national carbon tax and rebate system predicts electricity prices will rise for ten years, but dividends to households will shield people from this hardship. After ten years, electricity prices will drop steeply due to an explosion in new energy technology.

Economists suggest carbon taxes are the best way to stimulate investment in clean coal technology. Then coal will thrive. Without carbon taxes, coal has no future.

If Pippy cares about people employed in coal jobs, he should ask Pennsylvania's delegation to debate in Congress the merits of using some carbon tax revenues to help states heavily dependent on coal.

Get the congressional debate going. But stop whining like a spoiled child used to special treatment about modest EPA regulations issued because Congress has failed to enact legislation.

JUDY WEISS, Brookline, Mass.

http://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2014/06/pippy_offered_readers_the_wron.html

Lancaster Intelligencer

Journal/New Era

6/9/2014

Letter to Editor

Susan Finn Miller, Lancaster, PA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Lancaster

There is no denying that global warming is a complex issue that is difficult to discuss; nevertheless, it is critical that citizens understand the problem. The opinions of meteorologists do not carry as much weight as the opinions of climate scientists who publish in peer-reviewed journals.

Importantly, there is wide agreement among climate scientists that our climate is changing because of burning fossil fuels. Thankfully, the editors of this paper have done their homework. While some of the most respected newspapers in the country have refused to publish letters from climate change deniers, our paper has seen fit to print them, albeit to explicitly acknowledge the scientific consensus on the issue.

It's time to stop debating reality and begin working on solutions. The EPA regulations announced this week are not welcome by many conservatives. A conservative approach, which should be supported by local U.S. Reps. Joe Pitts and Pat Meehan, as well as our senators, would be to put a price on carbon, eliminate all subsidies to energy companies and let the market decide winners and losers. If the monies paid by the fossil fuel industry were then returned to American households, most of us would come out even or a bit ahead.

Economists who have studied the issue have determined that this move would send a clear signal to the market, empowering smart investors to support alternative energy solutions and create millions of jobs in the process.

http://lancasteronline.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/climate-change-exists/article_f11e2dd0-edb5-11e3-be02-0017a43b2370.html

Omaha World

6/9/2014

Letter to Editor

Patricia Fuller Council Bluffs, IA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NE Omaha

Embrace new energy technologies

According to U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer and other Republicans (June 3 World-Herald), the proposed carbon rules will “drive up electric bills and cost jobs.”

I am a senior citizen living in Iowa on a fixed income. I recently installed six solar panels at a cost of \$2,600 after federal and state tax credits. I am currently producing more electricity than I am using. Thanks to energy-efficient appliances and conservation, I am not paying an electric bill.

In Iowa, where MidAmerican Energy has heavily invested in wind and solar power, our rates are .088 cents a kilowatt-hour, actually less than OPPD rates. In 2016, MidAmerican will shut down two of its oldest, dirtiest coal-fired boilers in Council Bluffs.

Jobs are not leaving the state, but our locally built wind turbine blades are.

If Senate Republicans really wanted to protect the middle class, they would embrace new technology, promote energy efficiency and conservation and pass a revenue-neutral carbon tax, with the money going back to the ratepayers.

Patricia Fuller, Council Bluffs

http://www.omaha.com/opinion/the-public-pulse-june/article_6f766f27-22b1-586c-983b-85d8eb51e977.html

Northern Express

6/9/2014

Letter to Editor

William Gittlen, Frankfort

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MI Northern Michigan

In Defense of Our Climate

So what's going on in Washington? On May 22, the US House of Representatives passed the McKinley Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (the military budget), which would forbid the Department of Defense to spend any money to implement the recommendations of the National Climate Assessment, the most recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and two other climate reports when considering the national security impacts of climate change.

As Paul Ferrell of the Wall Street Journal wrote, "Research programs ongoing and widely used by the Pentagon in strategic national defense planning for many years could, if the Senate agrees, become illegal to use." In other words, the majority of the members of the lower House of Congress want to forbid the Pentagon from considering the findings and recommendations of scientists when making plans to keep our nation safe.

Huh? Our congressmen are forbidding the use of science? Are our elected officials working for us or for the wealthy oil and gas companies?

Our representative in Washington, Dr. Dan Benishek, voted with the Republican majority to ban the use of scientific analysis embedded in these reports in making plans about our security. It's outrageous.

We can have cleaner air, cleaner water, cheaper energy, better health, a booming economy, full employment, and a safer world by embracing a 21st century energy revolution, developing a smart grid that can distribute safe, clean, renewable energy. If we want to continue our idyllic life here in northern Michigan and provide a livable future for our children and grandchildren, we must vote for responsible politicians who are willing to take action based on science and the reality of what is actually happening today.

William Gittlen, M.D., Frankfort

<http://www.northernexpress.com/michigan/article-6385-letters-06-09-2014.html>

Janesville Gazette

6/9/2014

Op-Ed

Tom Sinclair, Dan Slick CCL Madison

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Madison

Other Views: A climate 'fix' that's good for the economy

JANESVILLE PRESENTATION

People interested in learning more about a revenue-neutral carbon tax and how they can help stop climate change are invited to a free public presentation by Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteers at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 12, at Hedberg Public Library in Janesville. For more information, contact Dan Slick at danslick@gmail.com.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently proposed new rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from America's power plants. It was the Obama administration's biggest move yet to slow the onset of global warming.

Opponents objected immediately. A spokesman for Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, the state's largest business lobbying group, said the EPA's action "is likely to inflict dramatic and irreversible harm to our economy if it is allowed to move forward."

What are we to do?

Scientists warn that failing to counter climate change now raises our risk of future catastrophes. Business as usual, they say, will lead to food shortages and health problems from heat and drought, increased loss of lives and property to severe storms, inundation of coastal cities by rising seas and other woes.

Yet, so far, Congress has refused to act. That leaves the administration with limited tools" in this case, regulation" to do the job.

A new study by Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI), a nationally respected economic modeling firm, suggests that better tools are available. REMI conducted the study for the Citizens' Climate Lobby, a nonpartisan organization concerned about global warming.

The study, released today (June 9), reveals that a revenue-neutral federal carbon tax would cut greenhouse gas emissions more than the proposed EPA rules while adding 2 million jobs to the national economy in just a decade.

The tax would be applied to the carbon content of fossil fuels. The companies that produce these fuels would pay it. The tax would begin at \$10 per ton of carbon and rise annually by that amount until emissions targets are reached. Economists say it would trigger a market shift toward cleaner alternatives.

To protect American businesses from overseas competitors not subject to similar conditions, border tariffs would be applied and credits would be given to U.S. exports.

But how would a carbon tax create jobs? In the REMI study, every dollar of revenue from the tax is turned over to the American people in regular dividend checks.

REMI calculated that, under this scenario, a family of two adults and two children would receive annual dividends of nearly \$3,500 after 10 years. For most households, the money would more than offset higher consumer prices resulting from the tax. It would be theirs to spend however they wish.

This would pump an additional \$400 billion annually into the national economy by 2025, fueling an increase of 400,000 jobs in the five-state region encompassing Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

Air-quality improvements in the same five states would be worth \$30 billion per year. Cleaner air would cut the number of premature deaths in the region by 28,000 in a decade. Job growth and better environmental conditions would boost the regional population by 600,000 residents.

Congress has the power to enact a carbon tax. Conservatives such as Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who favor free-market initiatives over bigger government should embrace the idea as the most efficient, most effective remedy for runaway climate change.

http://www.gazettextra.com/20140609/other_views_a_climate_fix_thats_good_for_the_economy

Orange County Register

6/9/2014

Letter to Editor

Allan Beek

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Orange County

Progressives don't "worship the state"

NEWPORT BEACH, Allan Beek: Register columnist James Poulos says activists trust in government, not God ["The dogmatic environmentalist trusts in government, not God", Opinion, June 8]. But Poulos doesn't seem to trust in God, either. He recommends that we trust in the "private sector," and in "moving souls and spirits."

-- Fortunately, when Pearl Harbor was attacked, we did not trust "moving souls and spirits," nor the "private sector." We trusted the Army and Navy; the government, the institution set up to do, as Abraham Lincoln said, what the people could not do by themselves.

-- The crisis is not a moral issue; it is an immoral issue. A few people make obscene profits by unlimited burning of fossil fuel; as immoral as pouring poison in our water supply. To end it, the first step is to make it illegal. Is this "worship the state"? No, it is just common sense.

-- The second step uses the private sector: Raise the price of fossil fuel. That harnesses the power of the free enterprise system to find nonpolluting ways of meeting or reducing our energy needs.

Please, Mr. Poulos, don't say we "worship the state" when we deal with our crisis by using law and the free enterprise system.

<http://www.ocregister.com/letters/trust-617587-nuclear-make.html>

Sacramento Bee

6/9/2014

Letter to Editor

Harold Ferber, Elk Grove, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Dan Walters and energy costs

Re "Senate bill would hike power bills" (Dan Walters, June 9): In his latest column about political tinkering with California's power system, Walters makes several interesting points. Continued piecemeal tinkering can result in higher electricity rates which can burden those least able to afford them.

The Bee has repeatedly published letters to the editor promoting a revenue neutral carbon tax. An essential aspect of this proposal is that all funds collected are distributed back to households on a per capita basis. For two thirds of the public this should at least equal any increased gas or electricity costs which will result from the carbon tax.

The major danger we face is from climate change which is predominantly based on carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels. Drought, wildfires, floods and rising sea levels are the real threat. Slightly increased energy bills are a rational price to pay, especially when the cost is cushioned for most of us.

-- Harold Ferber, Elk Grove

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/09/6469375/dan-walters-and-energy-costs.html>

Kearney Hub

6/10/2014

Letter to Editor

Jean Lewis, Lincoln

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NE Lincoln

Other energies create jobs

Thank you so much for the thoughtful and insightful editorial, "Clean air doesn't have to cost an arm, leg."

Our response to climate change and higher energy costs should be exactly the same: conservation and switching to alternative energy.

Nebraska is lucky to have lots of options: lots of sun, lots of wind. Our local economy will improve as we develop and sell our energy.

Alternative energy is the way jobs will be created in the future. Let's jump on the bandwagon!

Jean Lewis, Lincoln

http://www.kearneyhub.com/opinions/lte/other-energies-create-jobs/article_6914de9a-f0bf-11e3-94e8-0019bb2963f4.html

Lincoln Journal Star

6/10/2014

Letter to Editor

Rebecca (Becky) Seth

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NE Lincoln

EPA regulations welcome

As a citizen who is deeply concerned about the effects climate change is sure to have on our economy, health and national security, I welcome the announcement of new EPA regulations on existing power plants.

I understand the concern about increased energy costs, but that concern does not take into account the far greater costs of unchecked climate change. Our state depends far too much on coal-generated electricity. It is never a good idea to have too many eggs in one basket.

With Nebraska having such potential for both wind and solar power, I applaud the efforts of LES and OPPD to increase our use of these renewable energy sources. I hope that the new EPA regulations will make it even more economically desirable to move forward in this regard.

However, more action is clearly needed. Our federal representatives have expressed concern about the new regulations, and some mention a preference for legislative action. I would welcome their leadership in proposing other ways of addressing the very real and urgent need to combat climate change.

Rebecca Seth, Lincoln

http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-epa-regulations-welcome/article_8dfb48fc-5581-5b52-aa38-97f5c2702c50.html

The Herald Journal

6/10/2014

Letter to Editor

Paul Rogers, Logan

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter UT Cache Valley

Emission rules much needed

Hooray for the Obama administration in finally taking steps forward to limit U.S. greenhouse gasses! The Environmental Protection Agency has proposed new rules (June 2, 2014) to reduce emissions of heat-trapping carbon dioxide from existing power plants. These regulations are aimed squarely at coal-fired power generation, currently 80 percent of Utah's energy base. In my view, this couldn't come soon enough.

Under the proposed rule, states will have unprecedented flexibility in how to reduce emissions from existing power plants in their borders, and even can arrange for reductions from other sources instead of from the power plants themselves. These rule changes alone may result in the U.S. seeing a 30 percent reduction in emission levels by 2030 (from a 2005 baseline).

Further proactive measures to reduce greenhouse gases should use both regulatory and incentive programs, for example carbon trading mechanisms, to reduce atmospheric inputs that are causing the planet to warm. In addition to coal-based power generation, we need an aggressive push toward limiting automobile, commercial truck, and airplane exhausts. We here in Cache Valley are all too familiar with local auto emission issues; if we think about that same basic formula on a global scale it doesn't stretch the imagination to visualize steady carbon buildup in our planetary atmosphere.

I'm all for humans taking responsibility for our own messes. In Utah we are well positioned to transition toward solar, wind, and geothermal energy sources and move away from coal.

Human-caused climate change is the biggest mess we've ever created. Solutions, however, could point toward a much higher level of global environmental problem-solving through cooperation.

Paul C. Rogers

Logan

http://news.hjnews.com/allaccess/emission-rules-much-needed/article_829214ba-eea2-11e3-9a0f-001a4bcf887a.html?mode=jqm

Los Angeles Daily News

6/10/2014

Op-Ed

Cher Gilmore, Santa Clarita, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Santa Clarita

A win-win solution for global warming: Guest commentary

One of the arguments most used to oppose addressing the urgent problem of global warming by cutting carbon emissions has been that any plan to move us away from fossil fuels would cause massive job losses and hurt the economy.

Now, a new study by Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) lays that oft-repeated myth to rest.

The REMI study found that a gradually increasing fee on carbon, with all revenues returned to households, would not only add millions of jobs, but also stimulate the economy.

More specifically, by 2025, we would add 2.2 million jobs, raise GDP by more than \$80 billion annually, rebate a four-person family \$3,480 per year, reduce carbon emissions by 33 percent, and save 13,000 lives a year due to improved air quality.

The study looked at the economic impact of a fee or tax, assessed on the amount of carbon dioxide a fuel will emit when burned, starting at \$10 per ton of CO₂ and increasing by \$10 per ton each year. Border tariffs, to keep the global playing field level for U.S. corporations, were factored in. Revenues from the fee were divided into equal shares, with one share going to each adult and a half share going to each child, up to two children per household.

For those who fear that the cure for global warming might be more painful than the “disease,” this study is literally a breath of fresh air.

If fear of economic pain is what's driving skepticism about climate science and the aversion to viable solutions, it's time for our legislators to take a new look at this market-based approach.

In the absence of such a solution, the Obama administration is proceeding with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations to limit carbon pollution from coal-burning power plants. Republicans in Congress are already lining up to block those rules, but are not likely to succeed. The Supreme Court has issued repeated rulings recently that the EPA has both the authority and responsibility to regulate carbon as a pollutant.

The revenue-neutral carbon fee approach is supported by a number of conservatives, such as former Secretary of State George Schultz and Greg Mankiw, economic advisor to President George W. Bush and presidential candidate Mitt Romney. They argue that the price of fossil fuels does not reflect the health, security and environmental costs resulting from their use. If we fix this price distortion, the market will gravitate toward cleaner energy and energy efficiency without the need for regulations or subsidies.

British Columbia implemented a revenue-neutral carbon tax five years ago, and while per capita greenhouse gas emissions have decreased 9.9 percent, That province's GDP has grown more than the rest of Canada's, and 64 percent of the population supports the policy. The plan works.

Failure to dramatically reduce the greenhouse gas emissions we pump into the atmosphere daily will have consequences that could exceed our capacity to manage and adapt. That is the conclusion of climate studies recently released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the National Climate Assessment.

If we do little or nothing, the reports say we'll experience more extreme weather events and wildfires; decreased air quality; more diseases transmitted by insects, food and water; damaged infrastructure from sea level rise; more floods and extreme heat; agricultural disruptions leading to food shortages; and reduced water quality and supply, among other effects.

Why don't we change this "everybody loses" scenario to one where people, economy and environment all win, with a national carbon fee and dividend program that returns revenues to households?

Republicans could change their image from obstructionists to problem-solvers by embracing this alternative solution.

<http://www.dailynews.com/opinion/20140610/a-win-win-solution-for-global-warming-guest-commentary>

Midland Daily News

6/10/2014

Letter to Editor

James W. Crissman, Midland, MI

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MI Midland

Tuesday reader's view: Ignoring the obvious

To the editor:

One of the fundamental American freedoms is the freedom to be wrong, to believe whatever nonsense we please, no matter how objectively wrong, and to be incorrigible knuckle-heads about it. And, with social media at our fingertips, we are free to spread our hare-brained ideas around, no matter how crazy, without limit. The amazing thing to me is how immune our wrong-headedness is to actual provable facts.

Dartmouth political scientist Brendan Nyhan was in the news recently for his study of parents who refuse to vaccinate their children for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR). Nyhan and his colleagues found that factual information presented graphically is more effective than text, and that enhancing self esteem increases receptivity to facts that run counter to strongly held beliefs, but nothing they tried actually worked to change behavior.

After exposure to factual information on the safety and efficacy of the MMR vaccine and the dangers of the diseases it protects against, the number of parents who would subsequently change their minds and vaccinate their children actually went down. We humans tend to wrap up our strongly held beliefs with our self-identity, and for some of us, protecting that identity is more important than protecting our kids.

Nyhan has studied lots of entrenched beliefs, including the effectiveness of the troop surge in Iraq (it worked), the change in American jobs in 2010 (increased) and global temperature change (it's getting hotter). On these issues, factual information changed minds slightly more than with the MMR vaccine, but merely having subjects do a short self-affirmation exercise without exposure to facts was similarly effective.

In other words, many already knew what was true, but admitting those facts to themselves threatened their integrity unless they were helped to feel a little better about themselves. And for some, facts are totally irrelevant.

It is painful to surrender my strongly held belief in education --my belief that the truth will set us free. Instead it is now clear that we drift in a sea of opinions that make us happy, opinions only optionally moored to reality. But it is a very unhappy fact that all of us are threatened by climate change, our children more, and our grandchildren much more. Unless we dramatically curb carbon emissions, many scientists doubt that civilization will survive the droughts, floods, famine, disease, extinctions, mass migrations and wars of the next century. And yet we remain complacent, while the knuckleheads among us --too many of them in Congress --block the changes necessary to avoid these catastrophes.

It's past time for the responsible among us, those of us with the personal strength to face uncomfortable facts, to act. And the only effective solutions require political action. We must all work to change the minds of politicians who deny the facts and refuse to act, or vote them out. Our children are counting on us to be strong.

JAMES W. CRISSMAN

Midland

http://www.ourmidland.com/opinion/letters/tuesday-reader-s-view-ignoring-the-obvious/article_ae558f42-fb77-5356-b997-63cd9d3c1bfb.html

Austin American-Statesman

6/10/2014

Letter to Editor

Susan Adams, Austin

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter TX Austin

Tax on carbon good move for Texas

Re: June 4 editorial, "CO2 reduction plan welcome, overdue."

Thank you for your great editorial about the CO2 reduction plan. I agree that in the long-term, Texas is poised to do very well with renewable energy. I think critics of the policy, like Rep. Michael McCaul, would do well to get to work on congressional fixes if they are dissatisfied with regulations from the executive branch. One such fix, mentioned in the piece, is to put a tax on carbon. Despite the presence of the "t" word, it would actually be a conservative approach, widely supported by conservative and liberal economists alike as a no-brainer. Make the thing we want less of more expensive and then let the market do the rest. It isn't a tax in the true sense of the word if we return all the revenue to households, helping consumers handle any increased prices and preventing government expansion. Time to get serious.

SUSAN ADAMS, AUSTIN

<http://www.statesman.com/news/news/opinion/letters-to-the-editor-june-10-2014/ngG9g/>

WV Gazette

6/10/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss. Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Fix climate change by charging the polluters

Editor:

Thanks for Rick Steelhammer's informative article on climate change's effects on local fishing. However, I find rock snot, didymo, worms and whirling disease disgusting. Forget about trying to fix rock snot. Climate change is already driving up water temperatures, and will eventually make our river's uninhabitable by trout. So our nation must either fight climate change or turn our fishing rods in for knitting needles.

How do we fight climate change? The best way to get polluters to stop polluting is to charge for pollution, so let's charge for the carbon emissions that cause climate change. What about all the folks who say the science isn't settled, the president is fighting a war on coal, and a carbon tax that is rebated to the public can't ever pass? Their arguments sound fishy to me.

Judy Weiss

Brookline, Mass.

<http://www.wvgazette.com/article/20140610/ARTICLE/140619998>

Utica Observer-Dispatch

6/10/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

YOUR VIEW: Letters to the editor

Carbon tax could help New Yorkers

Amy Neff Roth's article covered the first meeting of Citizens' Climate Lobby's Utica chapter. The local chapter seeks to convince Rep. Richard Hanna of the wisdom of carbon tax legislation.

It is terrific that Hanna is already concerned about climate change and the effects of policy decisions on his region's economy. For five years, New York has been lowering emissions through the Northeast's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Yet other states have not lowered their emissions. Their pollution hurts our air and water, and contributes to climate change. Is this why we have so many destructive and expensive storms and floods? How unfair is this to our residents and businesses?

If Hanna cares about fairness for his constituents, he'll consider legislative measures to address climate change via a carbon tax. Why? EPA proposals will be tied up in court, delaying implementation and allowing other states to pollute without restraint for longer. Bipartisan Congressional legislation would avoid court delays that hurt the Northeast.

Also a carbon tax, rebated to the public, would shield lower and middle income families from energy price increases. It will allow businesses and investors to plan with more certainty than the regulations allow.

Fair is fair.

JUDY WEISS

Brookline, Massachusetts

Weiss is a volunteer member of Citizens' Climate Lobby, Boston chapter

<http://www.uticaod.com/article/20140610/OPINION/140609440/10310/LIFESTYLE>

Lincoln Journal Star

6/11/2014

Letter to Editor

Kenneth Moore, Lincoln

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NE Lincoln

Workable solution

The Obama administration's proposed rules to reduce carbon emissions from power plants are a start in addressing the global warming emergency, but regulations alone are not enough. To address the most dire threat the human race has ever faced, we need a more comprehensive strategy.

A revenue-neutral carbon fee would offer a market-based approach. The price would increase gradually over time, stimulating investment and jobs as industries, utilities and consumers increase conservation and switch to ever more affordable renewable energy alternatives.

Rather than just attacking the EPA, we need leaders who will offer workable solutions to the climate crisis.

Kenneth Moore, Lincoln

http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-workable-solution/article_7f167eb2-543a-5608-973a-a0871a849afd.html

Traverse City Record-Eagle

6/11/2014

Letter to Editor

Kelly Lively, Maple City

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MI Northern Michigan

Preserve food systems

It is time for each of us to take action on climate change to preserve our food system.

During the month of April the amount of carbon in the atmosphere averaged greater than 400 ppm. Anyone listening to the news knows climate shifts have already begun, droughts and floods are having an impact on food today.

Studies show that plants grown in high carbon dioxide atmospheric conditions have lower nutrients, and that weeds will out-compete food crops under climate change. These realities will further complicate our ability to feed people a healthy diet if we don't reduce our emissions.

We need to put a price on carbon and return the proceeds to the people. Opponents of more regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency should embrace this market-based approach that is favored by a number of prominent conservatives. It is our responsibility to work together for a livable world.

Rep. Benishek welcomes comment and feedback from his constituents. Join me in letting him know that we need a climate leader, and he can be one by championing such a bill in Congress.

Kelly Lively, Maple City

<http://www.record-eagle.com/opinion/x1927789388/Letters-to-the-Editor-06-11-2014>

Daily Democrat

6/11/2014

Letter to Editor

Elisabeth Robbins, Woodland, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Yolo County

Individual citizens also have power

Thanks, Daily Democrat editorial writers, for supporting a carbon tax. Although past cap and trade legislation failed after senate discussion pointed out its weaknesses, it is the only tool left to the Obama administration as they attempt to respond to the growing need for governmental action to limit climate change. Now is the time for those who oppose cap and trade to suggest alternatives.

A carbon tax is the mechanism often supported by economists. Under this system, coal, oil and natural gas is taxed when it is taken from the ground, with the tax based on the amount CO₂ emissions it will create when it is burned. Thus coal gets a heavier tax than natural gas or solar and becomes more expensive to use. This tax would of course be passed on through the economic system, and each business or other energy user would look for ways to save on the costs they cannot pass on, just as they do under today's artificially cheap energy system. Since all businesses would face the same increasing energy costs, the playing field should remain about as competitive as it is today.

On the other hand, as critics of EPA quickly pointed out, increased energy costs can set off a self-perpetuating negative cycle of reduced profits, leading to reduced employment and consumer spending. Business and industry always pass on as many costs as possible through increased product prices, so ultimately consumers would bear the brunt of increased energy prices. Since consumer spending is by far the largest source of our economic health, reduced consumer income would put a drag on the economy. This is the conundrum of both cap and trade and a carbon tax --how to reduce CO₂ emissions without damaging the economy.

Unlike cap and trade and other forms of government regulation, a carbon tax can be structured to protect consumers from its increased costs. It can be revenue neutral, that is all the tax revenue could be returned to consumers.

To limit climate change, we must limit the amount of CO₂ we are putting into the atmosphere. The challenge facing our members of Congress who oppose EPA regulations is to offer an

alternative which actually stimulates rather than injures the economy. A revenue neutral carbon tax deserves a close look.

Elisabeth Robbins, Woodland

http://www.dailydemocrat.com/letterstotheeditor/ci_25938398/letters-editor-wednesday-june-11

The Tribune

6/11/2014

Letter to Editor

Sandy Simon, San Luis Obispo

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA San Luis Obispo

Smart investments

Thank you for the report, "Billionaire seeks to help climate change victims." In a super-sized act of turning investment on its head, Tom Steyer and his wife have set up a fund to assist the victims of climate change by using the proceeds from divestment of the very energy fund which contributed to causing the conditions under which people have been victimized.

The Steyers' new fund will initially help Californians who have suffered because of wildfires, and their divestment reminds us that each of us has the power to impact the conversion from a polluting energy economy to one that does not create and exacerbate global warming. Old energy technology is on its way out, to be shown the door even more quickly by new EPA regulations on coal-fired power plants, as well as strong job gains in the green-energy sector.

All of us vote with our pocketbooks. My money is on smart investments in clean energy and away from CO2-emitting energy companies. Between switching to green technology and passing carbon fees and dividend legislation, we can look to a day when the Steyers can use their money for things other than helping the victims of climate change.

Read more here: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2014/06/11/3105719/smart-investments.html?sp=/99/181/#storylink=cpy>

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2014/06/11/3105719/smart-investments.html?sp=/99/181/>

Seacoast Online

6/11/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

GOP senators have work to do on climate change

Thank you for Deborah McDermott's article on proposed EPA regulations in which she reported that Sens. Kelly Ayotte and Susan Collins, both Republicans, will review the regulations carefully ("N.H. and Maine eye impact of EPA rules," June 4).

I hope these two pragmatic Republicans will understand that regulations were long overdue, and were issued because Congress failed to enact suitable climate change legislation. I hope these two strong congressional leaders will guide their party to understand that these regulations are not enough to reduce emissions adequately and control climate change. These regulations are just the first step. I hope these two fine senators, who worked together to end the budget crisis last fall, will team up to address the climate change crisis by co-sponsoring climate legislation that charges a price for carbon pollution and rebates revenues to households to protect Americans from energy price increases.

Sen. Collins sponsored such legislation in 2010. It is time for her to do so again. This time Sen. Ayotte is in the Senate to lend her support, and four more years of scientific research backs her up, and investors clearly want a market-based climate change policy. The stock market responded to the EPA's announcement on Monday (June 2) by hitting new highs because investors and businesses want climate change controlled and want clear policy actions. Moreover, recent economic studies by REMI and by Republican economists (Mankiw, Schultz, Becker, Laffer, Stelzer) indicate a carbon tax will create a boom in clean energy development leading to lower energy prices within about 10 years, and job growth and a thriving economy.

With one piece of legislation, Sens. Collins and Ayotte can fight climate change and reverse public perception that Sen. Marco Rubio speaks for all Republicans.

Judy Weiss

Brookline, Mass.

<http://m.seacoastonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140611/OPINION/406110345/-1/WAP01&template=wapart>

The Tribune

6/11/2014

Letter to Editor

Michael Segor

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA San Luis Obispo

Leading the way

Thank you for running the story “States cut emissions --where’s the economic ruin?” on June 7. It’s good news that 10 states have already reached the 30 percent reduction goal called for by the new EPA rules. They did it in just eight years and, even better, their economies are doing well. Several other states are following suit.

A widespread scare tactic being circulated by the oil industry is that we have to sacrifice our economy in order to transition from carbon fuels to renewable energy. That’s completely false, and actually, an investment in renewable energy creates more jobs and small-business opportunities than the same-size investment in capital-intensive fossil fuel development.

Ten states are leading the way. We need to move more quickly with a national effort to put a stable and predictable price on carbon emissions. We must get the whole country on board with a united plan and determined effort to control CO2 pollution, stabilize the climate and put the economy on a path to sustainable growth. The most economically sound and market-friendly way to do this is with a revenue-neutral carbon fee that is fully rebated on an equal basis to each and every American household.

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2014/06/11/3105720/leading-the-way.html?sp=/99/181/182/>

Deseret News

6/11/2014

Op-Ed

Gerald Elias, Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter UT Salt Lake City

My view: An economic benefit of a fee-and-dividend carbon tax

In 1839, scholar-scientist Peter Mark Roget (author of the famous Thesaurus) wrote an exquisite two-volume treatise, "Animal and Vegetable Physiology, Considered With Reference To Natural Theology."

"The object of this treatise," he said, "is to enforce the great truths of Natural Theology, by adducing those evidences of the power, wisdom and goodness of God, which are manifested in the living creation." Pre-dating Darwin's "On the Origins of the Species" by 20 years, Roget's tome was a noble attempt to understand the teeming diversity of life on earth and reconcile it with the act of creation, using reason and intellect rather than revelation or dogma.

One of the standard arguments against climate change legislation is that "the science is not settled." As the above example demonstrates, science is never settled. We are just beginning to understand the brain's intricacies, yet successful brain surgery is commonplace. We are just beginning to understand the nature of dark matter, yet Voyager I, launched in 1977, still beams us messages from interstellar space. We learn. We act upon what we learn. And then we try to learn more. We call this progress.

In two recent editorials ("Without compromise," June 4, and "Advanced energy," June 5), the Deseret News overlooks two glaring realities.

The first reality is climate change itself. We support the Deseret News's call for civil discourse, but must recognize that while government postures, economic and personal devastation wrought by historically ferocious fires, floods, droughts, hurricanes, tornadoes, blizzards and polar vortexes continues unabated. One year ago, 100,000 people in Calgary were displaced by unprecedented spring rains and flooding, yet it barely made a dent in the news. Why? Because catastrophes like this have become daily occurrences. Global warming is real. And it is here.

The second reality is political. The Deseret News is troubled by the way "the Obama administration approaches controversial subjects: avoid Congress and charge full stream ahead," yet it turns a blind eye to the intransigence of the House of Representatives, which has thwarted virtually every legislative initiative by the President since his first inauguration. The President's State of the Union addresses have continually called upon Congress to enact energy legislation.

If, after six years, the best reply Speaker John Boehner can come up with is, "I'm not qualified to debate the science over climate change," where is the basis for compromise that we and the News long for?

In the June 4 editorial, the Deseret News says, "Instead of crafting a compromise, this administration dismisses his opposition as illegitimate and barrels ahead anyway." Yet in the very same editorial, the Deseret News tacitly acknowledges a significant compromise that the Obama administration itself devised for the EPA regulations: "The EPA chose to use 2005 as the baseline year, allowing utilities the ability to take credit for strong gains in reducing pollution over the last decade."

The June 5 editorial goes on to state: "Above all, what the energy policy debate needs most is a sound sense of balancing costs with benefits."

The Citizens Climate Lobby applauds and echoes that sentiment. For precisely that reason, the CCL commissioned a just-completed, independent study to evaluate its long-standing call for Fee and Dividend legislation to create a market-based solution to the climate change impasse. The exhaustive study, called "The Economic, Climate, Fiscal, Power, and Demographic Impact of a National Fee-and-Dividend Carbon Tax," was researched by Regional Economic Models, Inc. and Synapse Energy Economics, Inc. The results show probable benefits of a Carbon Tax and returning this money to consumers through FAD. Here are the study's basic findings:

- 2.1 million more jobs under the FAD carbon tax than in the baseline
- 33 percent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from baseline conditions
- 13,000 premature deaths saved from improvements in air quality

"The FAD rebates return nearly \$400 billion to households --or almost \$300 per month for a family of four "" and the carbon tax aids in retirements of coal plants and accelerates investments in wind, solar and nuclear power. The impact to the total cost of living is less than 3 percent from the baseline, and gross domestic product increases between \$80 billion and \$90 billion."

In a nutshell, millions more jobs, thousands of lives saved and a significant step in addressing climate change.

Let us no longer use the disingenuous excuse of "I'm no scientist" to prevent us from stabilizing our future. Rather, let us take decisive action based upon the political and scientific realities facing us. Those who still question the need for climate legislation should heed the prescient words of Roget: "The passive emotion of astonishment, in which inferior intellects are content to rest, serves but to awaken, in him who has learned to think, a desire of farther knowledge."

Gerald Elias is a Salt Lake City author and musician, and a member Citizens Climate Lobby.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865604924/A-economic-benefits-of-a-fee-and-dividend-carbon-tax.html>

Stevens Point Journal

6/11/2014

Op-Ed

Dan Dieterich, Stevens Point

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Central Wisconsin

New EPA regulations won't be enough to fight global warming: column

Carbon tax is needed, and that requires Congress

President Obama recently announced new Environmental Protection Agency regulations that would reduce carbon dioxide pollution from America's coal-fired power plants 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. Power plants account for 38 percent of America's carbon pollution.

Obama said he took this action because he felt a moral responsibility to fight climate change. I respect that, and given the seriousness of the climate crisis, I'm grateful he took this step.

But it will not be nearly enough.

There has already been a 15 percent reduction in U.S. power plant carbon dioxide emissions since the 2005 base year President Obama established. So, the Carbon Tax Center estimates that if the regulations reach their target, the U.S. will reduce the total amount of U.S. carbon dioxide pollution by only 7 percent of what we produced last year.

There are three other problems with the proposed regulations:

First, all states wouldn't have to follow the new regulations until 2020, and legal challenges could delay the regulations for years after that. We can't wait that long to respond to the climate crisis.

Second, while climate change affects everyone, it has the greatest negative effect on people who are poor. The EPA regulations will increase energy prices but provide no way for poor people to pay for more expensive energy.

Third, while the regulations would reduce the 38 percent of carbon dioxide emitted by American power plants, they won't even touch the other 62 percent of carbon dioxide we emit.

That's why Congress needs to take a market-based approach to dealing with 100 percent of the sources of carbon dioxide pollution: a carbon tax.

Congress could implement such a tax quickly, especially since Republicans who oppose additional federal regulations could support a carbon tax if it were revenue-neutral (meaning it wouldn't add to the federal budget).

Wealthy Americans use three to four times as much carbon-based energy as poor Americans do, so a revenue neutral carbon tax that returns all the money it raises to households in equal amounts would benefit poor Americans more than wealthy Americans.

The Carbon Tax Center points out that Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash., plans to introduce a carbon tax bill this week that would, according to the Carbon Tax Center's modeling by 2030 reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 41 percent from 2005 levels, and would reduce the carbon dioxide emissions without the tax by 37 percent.

Note that the reduction would be of all future carbon dioxide emissions --not just those from power plants.

Such a steadily-rising carbon tax would be far more effective at putting the brakes on climate change.

A carbon tax would also encourage growth in clean energies such as wind and solar.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, solar power accounted for 74 percent of all new electric generating capacity in the first quarter of this year --enough to power three million homes. It was the second-largest quarter for U.S. solar installations in history. Home photovoltaic installations exceeded commercial installations for the first time since 2002, and utilities installed over 270 percent as much solar as they did in the first quarter of 2013 --perhaps in anticipation of the proposed EPA regulations.

A November 2012 guest post on Forbes.com predicted that solar might be "America's fastest-growing job-creation engine." A carbon tax would further boost investment in the clean power industry, which would then provide more jobs"and better paying jobs"than the fossil fuel industry does.

The proposed EPA rules allow states to select the method that they use to comply with the regulations. A statewide revenue-neutral carbon tax would be an excellent method for Wisconsin to select.

We'd also be wise to urge U.S. Reps. Sean Duffy and Ron Kind as well as U.S. Sens. Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin to step up and support a national revenue-neutral carbon tax.

Dan Dieterich of Stevens Point is the leader of the central Wisconsin chapter of the Citizens Climate Lobby.

<http://www.stevenspointjournal.com/article/20140610/SPJ06/306100339/New-EPA-regulations-won-t-enough-fight-global-warming-column>

Orange County Register

6/11/2014

Letter to Editor

Karen Meyers ESQ

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Orange County

Church and state carbon emissions

IRVINE, Karen Meyers: Register columnist James Poulos is right that we need to move souls and spirits in the fight against global warming [“The dogmatic environmentalist trusts in government, not God,” Opinion, June 8]. The problem is we have to move corporations, too.

The challenge of reducing carbon emissions need not be divided along faith or political lines. Indeed, these claimed divisions serve only to cause further delay in addressing the problem. The assertion that people of faith are not permitted to call on their government to assist them in resolving a problem is offensive; religion and representative democracy are not mutually exclusive.

As most Americans already believe, there is a need to curb emissions from coal-powered plants, even if it means an increase in electricity costs. According to a recent study by the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication, the Environmental Protection Agency regulations represent the will of the people.

If faith communities wish to continue to pursue other solutions, those are very welcome as well.

<http://www.ocregister.com/letters/teacher-617983-tenure-school.html>

Rutland Herald

6/11/2014

Letter to Editor

Lynn Goldfarb, Lancaster, PA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Lancaster

Cutting Carbon Boosts Economy

The June 9 letter by Judy Weiss of the Citizens Climate Lobby, "Carbon tax helps economy" points to the latest independent economic study showing that a revenue-neutral carbon tax, paid by the fossil fuel industry to us, the consumers, not the government, will boost, not hurt our economy. Such a tax would be painless (except to the fossil fuel corporations) and would prevent the "catastrophic" global warming thousands of the world's best climate scientists are now warning of.

For decades, special interests predicted that cleaning up air pollution would be harmful to our economy. However, the Office of Management and Budget, the government number-crunchers, reports the Clean Air Act of 1970 and its 1990 amendments consistently show benefits exceeding costs by 30 to 1. That's \$30 to for every dollar invested.

The economic benefits of a revenue-neutral carbon tax would be even greater, considering the risks: Quick and aggressive action to cut carbon dioxide emissions will save us trillions, according to the latest IPCC reports. In contrast, the International Energy Agency estimates just two more years of inaction on climate will cost \$4 trillion. U.S. taxpayers have already paid over trillion for climate change disasters (NOAA) and the world's top scientists project those costs will be rising steeply in the next decades. Let's make fossil fuels pay.

With a revenue-neutral carbon tax, however, we can phase out the fossil fuels while actually benefiting economically, but if we wait till 2030, climate disasters will cost about 4 percent of GDP, according to the latest IPCC reports. They tell us we must cut carbon dioxide emissions about 80 percent by 2050 to if we are to keep global temperatures from rising above limits that would create conditions leading to complete economic collapse worldwide. The cost-benefit analysis here couldn't be clearer.

<http://rutlandherald.com/article/20140611/OPINION02/706119982>

Hopewell Valley News

6/11/2014

Article

Huck Fairman, Princeton, NJ

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NJ Princeton

HOPEWELL VALLEY: Aucott: From student to farmer, professor, advocate

SOLUTIONS

How is it that some people become deeply involved in the land and in environmental issues, when so many others find them to be at the low end of their concerns?

Is it that our modern education and careers take us away from the land? In talking with Mercer County residents, I found that many who have become involved, developed an interest at a young age, or as young adults choosing a lifestyle, felt drawn back to the land and a desire to preserve it.

When, in the early 1970s, Pennington resident Michael Aucott and his wife Louise got married, they decided they wanted to live off the land, and so they bought a farm in North Central Pennsylvania.

There they built their own house and started growing and selling strawberries and cauliflower. But this vision had not leapt full-blown out of their new marriage, but rather had evolved.

For Michael, part came from his majoring in psychology at Haverford College, studying what contributes to a healthy life. Other related ideas presented themselves in his voluntary stints with the Philadelphia Ecology Action Group and the Transportation Action Group, both of which focused on preserving aspects of the community. Over the same period, he absorbed Quaker ideas on peace, which, upon graduating from college, led him to register as a conscientious objector. Granted that status, he volunteered to perform alternative national service, which he did as an orderly in a hospital in St. Louis.

Thus, as a young adult he had been exposed to a variety of experiences and ideas that encouraged public service and the preservation of land and community.

On their Pennsylvania farm, for a time, Mike and Louise did live off the land, were their own boss, and had time to read. (Memorably Jonathan Schell's, "The Fate of The Earth.") But eventually they realized that even with this lifestyle they were not self-sufficient, depending on

the world for tools, fuel, transportation and a balanced diet, and they also saw that their small farm was not making enough money.

Both then decided to return to school, Louise to become a midwife, and Mike to study environmental science at Rutgers. By 1987, studying with Kathleen Keating, Peter Strom and others, he had earned a masters and by 1997 a Ph.D.

While working on his degrees, Mike found employment with New Jersey's DEP as a contract administrator where he evaluated the scope, costs and needs of projects. Eventually he moved to DEP's Office of Science, which reviews data and helps the DEP address science-related questions. Among his specific studies was measuring the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the state "" a quantity calculated largely by gauging the amount of fuels used. Another study was researching the potential impacts of global warming on the state. He also headed the Trends Team, which updates measurements and trends relevant to New Jersey's environment.

In 2007, our then-Governor Corzine signed the Global Warming Response Act, exhibiting an awareness and responsibility missing from our current administration, which appears to be ignoring the recent national and international reports of global warming. (These reports warn that warming is well underway and only with rapid, concerted efforts can we avoid the worst outcomes.)

His recent retirement from DEP has meant that he is no less busy. Utilizing his understanding of nature's systems that he gained in both his doctorate and DEP work, he is now teaching environmental chemistry at The College of New Jersey. He also works as a consultant on energy issues (helping companies reduce emissions,) and as an expert witness.

In this regard, he points out that shale gas, if mined correctly, can be a bridge fuel that also can provide an attractive energy return on energy investment. But it must be treated as a bridge fuel and not a long-term energy source, as it does produce CO₂ emissions, though less than coal "" if emissions of unburned gas can be controlled sufficiently.

Another national focus must be the upgrading of our infrastructure and transmission lines if we are to distribute electric power produced by cleaner sources. (He recommends viewing the film, "Pandora's Promise" on the advances of nuclear power technology.)

And finally, in his home township of Hopewell, he is a member of the volunteer Environmental Commission advising the township on environmental issues and helping to draft new ordinances, including a drought preparedness ordinance and an ordinance protecting the township's trees. He was also a member of the township's Planning Board, which helped change zoning to prevent sprawl.

In talking to residents across New Jersey, he has found that people often express a hopelessness about countering global warming. And yet, as he exemplifies, there are many things people can

do. With this in mind, he has joined the Princeton Chapter of The Citizens Climate Lobby, which tries to spread awareness of the science behind climate change while also promoting the political will for policy changes that will address it.

The CCL's primary focus is on getting a revenue-neutral carbon tax enacted nationally. But members also write letters to national, state, and town representatives, letters to the editors of paper, as well as op-ed pieces.

Members from all over the nation will visit Washington in late June to speak with Congress members of both parties and their staffs. Mike says this low-key, non-partisan approach is one of the developments that gives him hope.

Mike's story is one of an evolution from his college investigations of human behavior to the effort by Louise and him to live a life off the land ““ two modern Thoreaus ““ then adapting to the need to earn a living and support their kids while helping people and preserving the wondrous environment we've inherited.

---””

Huck Fairman is a local writer who in the course of researching another project was confronted by the overwhelming evidence that we are changing the earth's environment. And that will affect life as we have known it. He hopes to present the many good local responses to this situation that are already underway.

http://www.centraljersey.com/articles/2014/06/23/hopewell_valley_news/lifestyle/doc53989dbaa1aa4581570939.txt

Patriot News

6/11/2014

Letter to Editor

Anne Searer, Hummelstown, PA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Harrisburg

Enough partisan debate, let's move forward with a refundable carbon tax: PennLive letters

I watched most of a climate debate rebroadcast on Sunday and was appalled at the questions and answers. The debate was lively, polite for the most part, but obviously very partisan.

The climate is not Republican nor is it Democratic. It affects us all regardless of party.

To argue that since the average rain fall across the country has not changed over the years is to deny that different areas of the country have experienced severe storms and flooding while other areas have experienced severe droughts and wildfires. The concept of a stable average rainfall across the country is a pointless discussion to people who have lost homes due to extreme weather. These areas have had anything but an average rainfall.

Energy costs are already causing the market place to adjust and choose a new winner (natural gas) and new losers (coal and oil). But the market does not have to select between three bad choices, coal, oil, or natural gas. There is another way.

We may be the first generation to realize the seriousness of the situation but we may also be the last generation that still has time to change it. A revenue neutral carbon tax would give energy companies an incentive to look for cleaner, greener solutions. The fee paid at the well or mine would be shared as a dividend to households to compensate for any increase in cost of goods or services.

Green energy is a good deal and it is not a partisan issue.

ANNE SEARER, Derry Twp.

http://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2014/06/climate_change_requires_carbon.html

Davis Enterprise

6/12/2014

Op-Ed

Mark Aulman

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Yolo County

A game-changer in the climate debate

By Special to The Enterprise

Recent well-publicized reports from the United Nations, the U.S National Climate Assessment and Pentagon consultants all point to the growing risks of climate change around the globe.

The overwhelming scientific consensus is clear: Effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions must happen soon if we are to maintain a livable planet for our children, our grandchildren and unborn generations.

The urgency surrounding global warming was underscored this month when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ordered U.S. power producers to cut CO2 emissions 30 percent by 2030.

Critics of the Obama administration's new rules are already lining up in opposition, citing higher energy costs for consumers, and loss of jobs.

But a new in-depth study from Regional Economic Models Inc. turns that notion on its head.

Since 1980, REMI has provided detailed economic impact studies for private-sector clients, universities and government agencies at all levels.

The current REMI study looks at the economic impact of a steadily rising national tax on carbon that returns revenue in equal shares to all American households.

The tax, based on the amount of carbon a fuel emits when burned, would start at \$10 per ton of CO2 and increase by \$10 per ton each year.

As you might expect, the impact of such a tax on CO2 emissions was dramatic, adding up to a 33 percent reduction by 2025 and 52 percent by 2035. And note that the tax limits CO2 from all sources, including transportation, a source the recent EPA regulations don't cover.

What about the charge that a carbon tax would "kill jobs"?

The REMI study found that when revenue gets recycled back to households, the carbon tax actually would stimulate consumer spending and drive job creation, adding as many as 2.2 million new jobs in the first 10 years.

The big takeaway message is that fighting global warming and stimulating the economy do not need to be mutually exclusive choices.

Politicians who oppose EPA regulations now have the chance to support an alternative that stimulates the economy by returning hundreds of dollars annually to American consumers, while helping to drive new markets for energy innovation.

The simplicity of this market-driven approach probably explains why a revenue-neutral carbon tax is now being supported by leading conservative leaders including former Secretary of State George Shultz and Greg Mankiw, economic adviser to President George W. Bush and presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

These commentators point out that a free market normally gravitates to things that are good for us, but sometimes the price of a commodity does not reflect the true costs that result from its use. For fossil fuels, such costs can be measured in rising seas, lives and property lost to more intense storms, oil spills and the mounting threat of armed conflicts over dwindling resources.

Who will ultimately pay the price for these events? The answer is you, me, our families, our kids and their kids for generations to come, unless we take action now.

If we can correct this price distortion through a steadily increasing carbon tax with dividends paid to American households, the market will move toward cleaner energy and greater energy efficiency, while creating millions of new jobs in the process.

That should be something we can all agree on.

The REMI report is available on the Web at www.citizensclimatelobby.org.

--Mark Aulman is a computer, communications and semiconductor industry consultant and a member of the Yolo Citizens' Climate Lobby.

<http://www.davisenterprise.com/forum/opinion-columns/a-game-changer-in-the-climate-debate/>

Wausau Daily Herald

6/12/2014

Letter to Editor

David Arey, Stevens Point

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Central Wisconsin

Renewable energy = jobs

EDITOR: Imagine solar-powered electricity being generated at night. Imagine a coal utility company that requested bids for a 200-megawatt wind powered plant ended up accepting a bid for a 600-megawatt wind-powered plant because the bid was so low.

Time magazine in its June 15 issue reported that Crescent Dunes power plant in Nevada will use solar energy to heat salt up to 1,050 degrees Fahrenheit, at which point it will be available to spin steam turbines any time, even at night. The same article noted that American Electric Power in Oklahoma accepted a bid for 600 megawatts of wind-generated electricity.

Worried about the economic impact (i.e., job loss) some say will follow implementation of a revenue-neutral carbon tax? Time also reported that: "There are now as many jobs in solar (150,000) and wind (50,000) as there are in coal (200,000) but clean energy can't match fossil energy's clout."

On Monday, a study prepared by Regional Economic Models Inc. on the economic impact of a nationwide revenue-neutral carbon tax was released. A couple key findings: A revenue-neutral carbon tax would add 2.2 million jobs and increase gross domestic product by \$80 billion to \$90 billion by 2025. Good reading.

I encourage U.S. Sens. Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Reps. Ron Kind and Sean Duffy and you to read the article in Time and the REMI study. What economic future do you imagine in 25 years --one where the U.S. has become more and more expert at extracting, transporting and burning fossil fuels, or one where the U.S. is the global leader in renewable energy?

David Arey,

Stevens Point

<http://www.wausaudailyherald.com/article/20140612/WDH06/306120154/Letter-Renewable-energy-jobs>

Austin American-Statesman

6/12/2014

Letter to Editor

Al Braden, Austin TX

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter TX Austin

We can kick the dirty coal habit

Re: June 2 article, "Obama takes action to slash coal pollution."

Driving across West Texas as President Barack Obama announced plans to cut carbon emissions from power plants, my heart soared. Along Highway 84 through Snyder, Roscoe and Sweetwater, wind turbines fill the horizon for fifty miles. In this place --and others like McCamey, Corpus Christi, South Coast, Amarillo --is proof that we can use our ingenuity and abundant Texas resources to kick the dirty coal habit. We grew wind power 13 percent in Texas last year alone. We can do so much more by 2030.

Each spin of a wind turbine eliminates coal pollution: less CO2 in the atmosphere, less toxic sulfur, nitrous oxide, lead and mercury, less money shipped out of state. On the plus side: more jobs kept in Texas, more royalties paid to farmers and ranchers for turbine sites and improved public health.

We can retire Austin's toxic coal plant at Fayette. Coal is over --let's live clean!

AL BRADEN, AUSTIN

<http://www.statesman.com/news/news/opinion/letters-to-the-editor-june-12-2014/ngJfd/>

The Fresno Bee

6/12/2014

Letter to Editor

Seth Tilley, Fresno

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Fresno

It's Smart Business American auto manufacturers fought against fuel-efficiency and emissions standards back in the 1970s and 1980s. While Europe and Asia focused on efficiency, we focused on short-term profits. This "win" for the industry resulted in American autos becoming less competitive in an evolving international market. Now America has the opportunity to lead the transition away from a carbon-based economy, but we're, again, abdicating that role to countries like Germany and Japan. These countries are pursuing alternatives to carbon because "externalities" like poor air and water quality, increased healthcare costs, unstable energy supplies and pricing, international resource wars, and man-made climate change are simply too costly -- and the alternatives are better and cheaper. The externalities of carbon are crippling the U.S. economy, and making our planet less hospitable for humans. Yes, the transition from fossil fuels must happen for the sake of future generations, but it's also smart business now. To remain economically competitive on a global scale America needs to discourage the carbon economy and encourage energy efficiency and renewable energy. As businessman Jigar Shah has said, climate change is "the largest wealth creation opportunity on the planet." So why are we resisting this inevitability instead of leading the charge? Read more here:

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/06/11/3972090/its-smart-business.html#storylink=cpy>

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/06/11/3972090/its-smart-business.html>

Sarasota Herald Tribune

6/12/2014

Letter to Editor

John E. Darovec, Jr., Bradenton, FL

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter FL Tampa-St Petersburg

Carbon tax is a win-win

Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) is a non-partisan, long-established, well respected

firm with many clients, local to international, that hire it to project the impact of contemplated fiscal changes.

REMI recently used three models to project the impact of a national revenue neutral carbon tax. In stark contrast to the claims of the fossil-fuel-connected, the study showed that such a program would be highly beneficial to the economy. The key is that the money collected from carbon producers must be distributed evenly to all consumers. If that is done, the economic benefits include 2.2 million new jobs within ten years, as well as an \$80 - \$90 billion increase in GDP, and improvement in many other economic parameters.

The benefit to all life is that the revenue neutral carbon tax will level the playing field for, and incentivize the use of, wind, water, and solar energy. The associated elimination of carbon dioxide emissions will slow global warming.

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20140612/LETTERS/306129996/2163/OPINION?Title=Thursday-s-letters>

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

6/12/2014

Letter to Editor

Rick Owen

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter AR Fayetteville

Cost of doing nothing

Recent articles have discussed proposed EPA regulations on carbon emissions from existing coal-fired power plants. One focusing on carbon-emission reductions for Arkansas emphasized the regulation's burdens and costs, but did not consider health effects of coal-burning power plants, nor did it emphasize the potential for growth of renewable energy sources in the state, which will bring jobs to replace or surpass employment in the coal industry.

Nationally, careful analysis estimates the economic benefits of the carbon standards will exceed their costs by between \$21 billion and \$53 billion in 2020, create a net total of 210,000 jobs, and lower our average electricity bills.

The regulation requires states to develop implementation plans to reduce carbon emissions. The Arkansas plan will address carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants, but should also promote energy generation from renewable sources and energy conservation to achieve reduction in emissions.

The costs of doing nothing are too high. For too long, the fossil-fuel industry and its customers have consumed the earth's natural resources without being charged for adverse effects on human health and the environment. "We the people" must tell policymakers that they need to listen to us instead of special interests.

I encourage all Arkansans to learn about carbon pollution and the options available to us, and to act to reduce health risks and preserve a safe and abundant planet for the generations to come. Comment on the proposed regulations at www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards, and contact state and national elected officials.

RICK OWEN

<http://epaper.ardemgaz.com/Default/Skins/ArkDaily/Client.asp?Skin=ArkDaily&Daily=ArDemocrat&GZ=T&AppName=1>

Sacramento Bee

6/12/2014

Letter to Editor

Harold Ferber, Elk Grove

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Dan Walters and energy costs

Re "Senate bill would hike power bills" (Dan Walters, June 9): In his latest column about political tinkering with California's power system, Walters makes several interesting points. Continued piecemeal tinkering can result in higher electricity rates which can burden those least able to afford them.

The Bee has repeatedly published letters to the editor promoting a revenue neutral carbon tax. An essential aspect of this proposal is that all funds collected are distributed back to households on a per capita basis. For two thirds of the public this should at least equal any increased gas or electricity costs which will result from the carbon tax.

The major danger we face is from climate change which is predominantly based on carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels. Drought, wildfires, floods and rising sea levels are the real threat. Slightly increased energy bills are a rational price to pay, especially when the cost is cushioned for most of us.

-- Harold Ferber, Elk Grove

Link n/a. Hard copy of LTE published online 06/09/2014

Stevens Point Journal

6/12/2014

Letter to Editor

David Arey

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Central Wisconsin

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EDITOR: Imagine solar-powered electricity being generated at night. Imagine a coal utility company that requested bids for a 200-megawatt wind powered plant ended up accepting a bid for a 600-megawatt wind-powered plant because the bid was so low.

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Worried about the economic impact (i.e., job loss) some say will follow implementation of a revenue-neutral carbon tax? Time also reported that: "There are now as many jobs in solar (150,000) and wind (50,000) as there are in coal (200,000) but clean energy can't match fossil energy's clout."

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I encourage U.S. Sens. Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin, U.S. Reps. Ron Kind and Sean Duffy and you to read the article in Time and the REMI study. What economic future do you imagine in 25 years --one where the U.S. has become more and more expert at extracting, transporting and burning fossil fuels, or one where the U.S. is the global leader in renewable energy?

David Arey,

Stevens Point

<http://www.stevenspointjournal.com/article/20140613/SPJ06/306130074/Letter-Renewable-energy-jobs>

Sacramento Bee

6/12/2014

Letter to Editor

Harold Ferber, Elk Grove, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Slightly higher energy bills OK

Re "Senate bill would hike power bills" (Dan Walters, June 9): Continued piecemeal tinkering can result in higher electricity rates, which can burden people least able to afford them.

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Harold Ferber, Elk Grove

n/a. Hard copy of LTE published online 06/09/2014.

Lancaster Online

6/12/2014

Letter to Editor

Lynn Goldfarb, Lancaster,PA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Lancaster

Science and Climate

Regarding the June 2 letter, "Climate change: The 97 percent figure is bogus": The 97-98 percent figure is from the National Academy of Sciences and appears on their website. There is no higher standard in science than the NAS.

The letter presumes a worldwide conspiracy of thousands of top climate scientists to get grants. First, there is no big money in scientific research. Second, most researchers have tenured positions and choose their research. I know that firsthand because both my daughter and her husband are climate scientists who are dedicated to trying to prevent a nightmarish future from harming their children. (By the way, they do not get grants.) The IPCC scientists volunteer their time.

We need to stop debating the scientifically illiterate and work on solutions. The most effective weapon we have is a revenue-neutral carbon tax. Replace the EPA regulations with an escalating tax paid by fossil fuels directly to consumers, not the government. We use that tax money to buy solar and wind energy.

We'd also tax imports, according to the producer-country's CO2 emissions. That's an incentive for them to use clean energy and for us to use our carbon tax money to buy U.S. products.

Lynn Goldfarb

http://lancasteronline.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/science-and-climate/article_2e8ce840-f177-11e3-8b96-0017a43b2370.html

Ashland Daily Tidings

6/12/2014

Letter to Editor

Elizabeth Hallett

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter OR Southern Oregon

Wake up and pay attention

Outside my living room window I see Mount Ashland. Its snow cap is gone. When we came seven years ago, the snow cap lasted into mid-August.

The valley is hazy except on Sundays, and I conclude that an active populace creates haze during the week. Scientists tell us it is human-caused. They also tell us that the severity of the fires, floods, droughts, hurricanes, tornadoes, acidification of the oceans, and now hail from 10,000 feet are likewise human-related. Will it be possible to turn the great ships we call nations in a new direction?

We are Americans. We were a nation of isolationists in 1941 when we were attacked and lost our navy at Pearl Harbor. We turned on a dime. In three months, automobile producers rolled out airplanes. The shipyards launched ships daily. The populace accepted restrictions on gasoline and many food commodities. When we Americans "get it," we make things happen.

As in 1941, we don't "get it" that we are vulnerable and that our disasters are human influenced. Let's pay attention; make polluters accountable, and change our own carbon footprint.

Wake up, America!

Elizabeth R. Hallett

<http://www.dailytidings.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20140612/OPINION04/406120309>

Los Angeles Daily News

6/12/2014

Letter to Editor

Margie Engel

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Los Angeles

A letter to the editor in response to CCL guest commentary titled "A Win Win Solution for Global Warming."

With recent reports reinforcing what we already know - that global warming is already having a serious impact - it is heartening to read that there is a way to put a price on carbon that will encourage the shift to cleaner fuels and technologies without a drawn out and complicated regulation process. Thank you for printing this guest commentary. It educates, offers hope and encourages a broader conversation on the most important issue of our time.

Margie Engel

Studio City

<http://www.dailynews.com/search?text=letters+to+editor+June+13%2C+2014&days=1460>

Lancaster Intelligencer

Journal/New Era

6/12/2014

Op-Ed

Pete Kuntz, Lancaster, PA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Lancaster

The June 3rd letter says the EPA's "attack on carbon, coal to raise your electric bills," More accurately, the EPA's estimate is a 7% increase in electric bills, which should later lead to an 8% decrease.

Want to know what's really expensive? Climate change. It's already cost you and me, the U.S. taxpayers, over \$1 trillion, (NOAA) and the International Energy Agency says just two more years of delay on climate action will cost about \$4 trillion more. To oppose an "attack on carbon" is the worst kind of myopic and penny-wise, pound-foolish approach imaginable.

Carbon fuels are the enemy and they are attacking us. We're currently living on borrowed time, pumping our aquifers dry to irrigate crops that would otherwise fail due to on-going droughts in the West and Midwest. In coming decades we'll have skyrocketing food prices and shortages as our aquifers disappear at the same time the droughts worsen, according to the National Climate Assessment. And then there are rising sea levels which will put our coastal cities underwater, after we spend hundreds of billions trying to save them. At the same time, ocean acidification, caused by rapid global warming, threatens a complete collapse of most marine life. This is not some alarmist conjecture. Every scientific body of national or international standing agrees on this.

And unlike the ozone hole and acid rain, we can't make global warming go away. It's going to get much worse and remain that way. Our excess CO2 emissions will blanket the globe for millennia. And the heating up of CO2 emissions takes about four decades, which means that even if we could flip a magic switch and stop all global emissions overnight, we still have over forty years of our highest CO2 emissions yet to heat up, adding on to what's already in the atmosphere.

The escalating costs of worsening climate change will be approaching or exceeding our entire GDP by 2030. (Bloomberg) This will be bad enough, but with no action taken, the projections are

that economies worldwide will collapse and ours would be no exception. And, unlike the Great Depression, there would be no recovery. The final result would be complete “societal collapse.” (IPCC)

The "attack on carbon" letter says cutting CO2 emissions will threaten 60,000 coal-related jobs, but last year, the American solar and wind industries employed over 226,000 people, a jump of 20 percent in just one year. Massachusetts created twice as many clean energy jobs as all of PA's tracking has. Solar and wind prices are dropping exponentially each year, despite the fact that their subsidies have been eliminated while totally unnecessary multi-billion dollar subsidies for fossil fuels continue. As soon as it's clear that fossil fuels are going to be phased out, investment will flow into solar and wind, and they'll become cheaper than fossil fuels are now. That's when that projected 8% decrease in your energy bills kicks in. A University of California study shows that solar and wind can easily power the world several times over, making our energy system more resilient and reliable.

Clearly, the choice between polluting fossil fuels with what will soon be their crushing societal costs, and clean, safe and cheaper renewable energy is a no-brainer. The only problem with the EPA approach is that it doesn't do the job. It is a baby step, cutting power plant emissions by 30% when they are only 40% of our emissions problem, and it does nothing about CO2 emissions from other countries.

There's a better way: It's time we phased out fossil fuels with a tax that's paid by them to us, the consumers, not the government. With an escalating revenue-neutral tax making polluting fuels increasingly more expensive than clean energy, people will switch, using their carbon tax money to cover temporary cost differentials. No government regulations, just market forces, resulting in a cheaper energy system that will add good jobs. Eight Nobel economists endorse this idea. And by taxing imports according to the carbon emission of the producer countries, we punish them for not going green and incentivize Americans to buy U.S. goods with their carbon tax money.

The only thing we need to do in order to prevent global disaster, and save trillions by doing so, is to let Congress know we want a revenue-neutral carbon tax that's paid to us. You can find out more about this idea by going to the Citizens Climate Lobby website.

Link n/a

Janesville Gazette

6/12/2014

Letter to Editor

Carol Steinhart, Madison, WI

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Madison

Sustainable energy production is needed

The Public Service Commission is considering a rate change for Madison Gas and Electric. The change would sharply increase the monthly base charge to \$79 by 2017 and reduce the rate for electricity use.

This would have a chilling effect on private solar, wind, and geothermal installations by greatly increasing their payback time. It also would hurt people with small utility bills who already struggle to pay them.

It seems that MGE is promoting and discouraging sustainable energy at the same time. But the reason is clear: The less energy people buy from the utility, the more expensive it becomes to provide the service.

Utilities nationwide are recognizing this and proposing similar solutions. We need a new paradigm, one in which utilities engage aggressively in production of sustainable energy and recognize that the energy is "free" after the capital costs are paid.

We need a revenue-neutral carbon tax to spur this new energy model.

-- Carol Steinhart, Madison

http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gazettextra.com%2F20140611%2Fyour_views_proposed_carbon_tax_is_powerful_incentive&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNH6ryujOw0nzDmLZk7JMFQRg_peQQ

Register Star

6/12/2014

Letter to Editor

Karen Frishkoff, Ghent, NY

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NY Columbia County

Bigger steps needed

Finally Washington is doing something to deal with the ever more obvious problem of climate change. Recent action by President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency demonstrates that they are taking the matter seriously.

The EPA's just-announced new rule, calls for a 30 percent reduction of carbon emissions from existing power plants by the year 2030. That's good, since carbon dioxide is the chief culprit involved in climate change and 38 percent of our country's CO2 emissions comes from power plants. But it's far from the 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions that scientists say is needed by 2050 to keep life on our planet reasonably normal.

New York should have no trouble meeting the EPA's requirement, because it is already participating in one of the recommended strategies --a cap-and-trade program involving nine states in the Northeast. In effect since 2009, this program, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, has already produced a reduction in CO2 emissions and lower electricity prices in the region.

But bigger steps will be required, and those steps may need to include something other than government regulations. States should be free, for example, to incorporate the dynamic forces of the free market to reduce the use of fossil fuels.

I'd love to see our own Congressman, Chris Gibson, take a role in developing a bipartisan, market-friendly approach to the problem. I particularly like the one advocated by the Citizens' Climate Lobby, which has a local Columbia County chapter. It's a graduated fee levied on every ton of carbon taken out of the ground (or CO2 emitted into the air) that could be collected and returned to every household monthly, like a dividend. As this fee increased year by year, we would find more ways to reduce our use of fossil fuels, including "buying local" to avoid the cost of long-distance shipping. Meanwhile, the producers and processors would be moving into alternative energy sources not under government pressure but in response to the market.

More and more information is making clear that the growth of greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, in our atmosphere is a huge problem for all of us and demands prompt and major action. The president and the EPA have taken a big step. The challenge for all of us is to block out the noise of partisan politics and find elected officials and others willing to work together on solutions.

Link n/a

Lincoln Journal Star

6/13/2014

Op-Ed

Lucas Sabalka, Lincoln

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NE Lincoln

A global warming solution (almost) everyone can like

About 2.1 million new jobs. Almost \$1 trillion higher GDP. About 13,000 lives saved every year. Carbon dioxide emissions reduced by 33 percent. All by 2025, with NO increased federal spending.

These are the results of a groundbreaking new study of what may now be the best solution to global warming available. The study is from Regional Economic Modeling, Inc. (REMI) and was released Monday. This study looked at the effects of imposing a carbon tax of \$10 per ton of carbon dioxide emissions starting in 2016 and increasing \$10 per ton per year, paid by the coal, oil and gas companies. One hundred percent of the proceeds would be returned to American households on a monthly basis, just like the Bush tax-cut checks. The model includes border protections to safeguard American business competitiveness from other countries and put pressure on China and the rest of the world to rein in their own emissions.

In short, REMI models a steadily increasing and "revenue neutral" carbon tax, with border protections.

Such a tax is designed to protect American businesses and households from increased costs while letting the market adapt its own ways of reducing dangerous global warming emissions and transition to the energy economy of the future without growing the size of government (no new tax income) or picking winners and losers (think Solyndra).

What is REMI? They are a well-respected, nonpartisan, independent economic modeling company that has provided economic impact studies for numerous public- and private-sector clients, including more than 70 state and local agencies in more than 29 states, MIT, the University of Michigan, the Tennessee Valley Authority, Sandia National Laboratory, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and consulting firms such as Booz Allen Hamilton and Ernst & Young, to name just a few.

The REMI study models 160 industries in nine regions throughout the US. In our region, by 2025 the study projects an increase of 200,000 jobs and .5% yearly improvement in Gross

Regional Product over the baseline scenario. Health, service, and trade industries would see the most growth because the carbon tax would decrease air pollution, increasing life expectancies, and the rebate would increase expendable income in the region.

The REMI model predicts that agriculture and rail industries would be barely affected by a carbon tax, though given their importance to Nebraska more focused studies should be done. The only industries that would substantially lose production are oil and gas extraction (our region includes the North Dakota gas production regions), chemical and petroleum manufacturing, and utilities.

This year has seen a steady drumbeat of major reports -- from the Pentagon to the United Nations to the National Academies of Science to OxFam and more -- that emphasize the threat of global warming and the urgency of action to avoid the worst effects. For our region, the extreme heat and drought of 2012 were a sampling of what could come.

In response to the increasingly urgent warnings from scientists, just last week the Obama administration's EPA released dramatic new emissions reduction requirements for coal-based power plants. Critics, including Sens. Deb Fischer and Mike Johanns, are criticizing those regulations as too costly. Our senators are right to look out for Nebraskan pocketbooks, but the costs of inaction on global warming are too great to ignore.

A legislative market-based solution would be preferable to a government-imposed regulative one. In response to the EPA regulations, our members of congress should propose a tax and rebate program that will grow the Nebraskan, and American, economies.

Lucas Sabalka of Lincoln is a member of the Citizens Climate Lobby.

http://journalstar.com/news/opinion/editorial/columnists/local-view-a-global-warming-solution-that-almost-everyone-can/article_8312aeb1-f1e3-575f-8133-a20efc22b771.html

Traverse City Record-Eagle

6/13/2014

Op-Ed

Elizabeth Del Buono, Traverse City

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MI Northern Michigan

Forum: Solution to climate change creates jobs

Wouldn't it be wonderful if, instead of a regulatory approach to climate change, as recently proposed by the Obama administration, there was a market-based approach? Wouldn't it be even more wonderful if such an approach also created jobs and grew the economy, especially here in Michigan? A steadily increasing fee on carbon that returns 100 percent of revenues generated to American households would do just that!

It is frequently touted that "what is good for the environment is bad for the economy," but a recently released study from Regional Economic Models, Inc (REMI; <http://www.remi.com/>) blows that contention away. This study looks at the effects of a steadily increasing fee on carbon, (beginning at \$10 per ton of CO2 emitted and increasing \$10 per ton annually), that returns 100 percent of revenues to American households (carbon fee and dividend (FAD) or a "revenue-neutral" carbon tax). The results of the study are startling.

Such a fee on carbon would tax corporations based on the amount of CO2 emitted by their product, while returning all the revenues in equal shares to American households in the form of monthly dividends. Because corporations would pass the costs of these fees on to the consumer, it is important to note that most families, especially low- and middle-income families, would receive more in monthly dividends than costs are projected to increase because of the tax. According to the newly released national REMI study, such a FAD system would:

Create 2.1 million jobs after 10 years and 2.8 million jobs after 20 years (a less than 1 percent increase in total US employment).

Increase the gross domestic product by \$70-85 billion annually with a cumulative increase in national GDP of \$2.375 trillion.

Save 13,000 lives annually after 10 years with a cumulative 227,000 American lives saved over 20 years.

When compared to other regions in the country, job growth is greatest in the Midwest.

The consequences of climate change are costly and currently taxpayers pick up the bill. In 2012, there were 11 weather events, which cost taxpayers more than \$1 billion each, not to mention the drought at \$35 billion. Most economists, from across the political spectrum, agree that placing a fee on harmful CO2 emissions that reflects its true cost to society is the most effective way to decrease emissions.

The REMI study demonstrates that such a tax would decrease CO2 emissions by 33 percent after only 10 years and 52 percent after 20 years.

The REMI study provides solid data that should empower our lawmakers to make great strides in passing carbon FAD legislation. Later this month 23 citizens from Michigan, 12 from the Traverse City area, will join over 600 other citizens from across the nation in traveling to Washington, D.C., to ask our legislators to pass carbon FAD legislation. Please consider calling or writing Rep. Dan Benishek, Sens. Levin, and Stabenow to express your support for a fee on carbon that is good for the environment and good for the economy.

About the author: Elizabeth (Lisa) Del Buono is a surgical pathologist in Traverse City and co-leader of the Northern Michigan Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby.

<http://www.record-eagle.com/opinion/x1927794538/Forum-Solution-to-climate-change-creates-jobs/print>

Traverse City Record-Eagle

6/13/2014

Letter to Editor

William Gittlen, Frankfort

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MI Northern Michigan

Base it on science

So what's going on in Washington? On May 22 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the McKinley Amendment to the military budget, which would forbid the Department of Defense to spend any money to implement the recommendations of the National Climate Assessment, IPCC report and two other climate reports when considering the national security impacts of climate change.

In other words, the majority of the members of the lower House of Congress want to forbid the Pentagon from considering the findings and recommendations of scientists when making plans to keep our nation safe. Our representative in Washington, Dr. Dan Benishek, voted with the Republican majority to ban the use of these reports in making plans about our security.

We can have cleaner air, cleaner water, cheaper energy, better health, a booming economy, full employment, and a safer world by embracing a 21st century energy revolution, developing a smart grid that can distribute safe, clean, renewable energy. If we want to provide a livable future for our children and grandchildren we must vote for responsible politicians who are willing to take action based on science.

William Gittlen

Frankfort

<http://www.record-eagle.com/friday/x1927794540/Letters-to-the-Editor-06-13-2014/print>

Portage County Gazette

6/13/2014

Letter to Editor

David Arey

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Central Wisconsin

Solar-powered electricity generated at night

To the Editor:

Imagine solar-powered electricity being generated at night. Imagine a coal utility company that requested bids for a 200-megawatt wind powered plant ended up accepting a bid for a 600-megawatt wind-powered plant because the bid was so low.

TIME magazine reported in its June 16 issue reported that Crescent Dunes power plant located in Nevada will use solar energy to heat salt up to 1,050 degrees Fahrenheit, where it will be available to spin steam turbines any time, even at night. The same article noted that American Electric Power in Oklahoma accepted a bid for 600 megawatts of wind-generated electricity.

Worried about the economic impact like job losses some say will follow implementation of a revenue-neutral carbon tax? Time also reported: "There are now as many jobs in solar (150,000) and wind (50,000) as there are in coal (200,000) but clean energy can't match fossil energy's clout."

The fossil energy industry's political clout is indeed formidable. However, the economic tide may be turning and the move to renewable energy may be inevitable.

On Monday, June 9, a study prepared by Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI) on the economic impact of a nation-wide revenue-neutral carbon tax was released. A couple key findings: A revenue-neutral carbon tax would add 2.2 million jobs and increase gross domestic product by \$80 billion to \$90 billion by 2025. Good reading.

I encourage Sens. Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin, Rep. Ron Kind and you to read the article in TIME and to become familiar with the REMI study.

We have a long way to go to kick our national addiction to fossil fuels. Renewable energy, like solar and wind, are making progress an an accelerating pace. American innovation in these areas would help the U.S. lead the global economy for the next century. The time is ripe for a revenue-

neutral carbon tax; it would provide a strong incentive for sustainable economic growth based on clean, renewable energy.

What economic future do you imagine in 25 years --one where the U.S. has become more and more expert at extracting, transporting and burning fossil fuels, or one where the U.S. is the global leader in renewable energy?

David Arey,

Stevens Point

Link n/a

Austin American-Statesman

6/13/2014

Letter to Editor

Matt Weldon, Austin TX

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter TX Austin

CO2 reduction plan is good for Texas

Re: June 4 commentary, "CO2 reduction plan welcome, overdue."

Thank you, thank you for publishing your opinion piece supporting the carbon dioxide emission restrictions in the electricity generation sector and going further to support carbon (GHG) pricing. Correcting a market failure in which pollution costs are assigned zero value and the negative consequences of industry and market designs are socialized to everyone is a simple concept that could have profound positive impact. Internalizing now socialized costs into fossil products will stimulate innovation and reward states with the means to produce goods sustainably.

Texas is rich in renewable energy resources, geologic structures for carbon sequestration, and technical expertise in both of these areas. Texas leaders are harming our future prosperity by opposing carbon fee and dividend structures that will likely, ironically, disproportionately benefit Texas once enacted. I hope representatives such as Lamar Smith and Michael McCaul take note and help the Republican Party lead on an issue.

MATT WELDON, AUSTIN

<http://www.statesman.com/news/news/opinion/letters-to-the-editor-june-13-2014/ngKKJ/>

Times of Trenton

6/13/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Carbon fee and dividend makes economic sense

I thank The Times for publishing Joseph Robertson's guest op-ed on climate change and the risks it presents to New Jersey, "Address climate change and prosper" (June 10).

Mr. Robertson does a great job of trying to convince readers that global warming must be addressed, concluding, "No one's ideology should be an obstacle to supporting smart solutions." His conclusion is even more true since REMI (Regional Economic Models Inc.) released its study of a national carbon tax with rebates.

REMI's study concluded that a gradually increasing carbon tax paid by fossil fuel producers and fully rebated to the public via monthly checks to households would cut emissions, grow the economy and create an estimated 2.1 million jobs within 10 years.

I ask New Jerseyans to urge Reps. Chris Smith (R-4th Dist.) and Leonard Lance (R-7th Dist.) to review REMI's study. I think they will find that any politician, no matter his or her ideology, would want to support this type of carbon tax because of its economic benefits.

-- Judy Weiss,

Brookline, Mass.

The writer is a volunteer member of Citizens' Climate Lobby, Boston chapter.

http://www.nj.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/06/times_of_trenton_letters_to_the_editor_-_june_13.html

Heritage Florida Jewish News

6/13/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Dear Editor,

Excellent column by Alan Kornman regarding encouraging Jews to become more active seeking climate change mitigation through lower emissions. Rabbi David Kay gave great examples, but when asked about the Heritage Foundation's opposition to EPA regulations which will curb the use of coal and other dirty fuel, Kay chose not to answer a hypothetical question. However, since that article was written, the EPA has already made it clear what their regulations will be (they will release the regs on June 2).

An upcoming Torah reading guides us to reject the Heritage Foundation's opposition to these regulations. Why? In Parashat Korah, men complain against Moses. Rabbinic tradition says there are complaints and causes for the sake of heaven and these will endure. But other causes not for the sake of heaven will not endure. Korah's was not for the sake of heaven. Why? Because Korah sought his own personal advancement and had selfish reasons for disputing Moses. Only arguments raised for altruistic reasons are for the sake of heaven, and therefore legitimate.

Regarding the Heritage Foundation's objections to EPA regs, the Heritage Foundation is heavily funded by fossil fuel interests and has monetary reasons for arguing against EPA regs. Moreover, Heritage Foundation doesn't mention these selfish reasons for opposing the EPA. Instead they claim that the regs will hurt American families, businesses and manufacturers. Thus they pretend their objections are altruistic. But they are not. If Heritage Foundation were worried about American families and businesses they would argue for Congress to pass a carbon tax and rebate all the proceeds to American families or decrease business taxes. Rather Heritage wants nothing to be done about climate change because doing something will hurt their personal wealth and advancement. Heritage Foundation does not want your readers to know that a carbon tax would be an excellent way to lower emissions and protect American families from energy price increases. The tax would be paid to fossil fuel companies, and it would be rebated to households. If energy prices increase due to the tax, families will be protected by rebates. Heritage Foundation doesn't want the public to understand this because it will hurt the Heritage Foundation and their patrons.

When climate change leads to more asthma and heat-related illnesses do you think Heritage Foundation will be lobbying for more health benefits for American families? No, they will still be trying to repeal national healthcare.

Furthermore, various studies have shown that there is no support for the argument that protecting the environment hurts the economy. Rather, states that have already introduced emissions reduction legislation survived the recent recession better than states that have been ignoring climate change. Why? Because green energy creates more jobs than are lost as fossil fuel businesses shrink. Because energy efficiency measures require more construction workers, more innovations, and an upgraded energy grid.

In the next few weeks more studies will be released that indicate that the faster we reduce emissions, the stronger our economy will be.

And the safer our nation will be from the severe consequences of climate change.

Readers should please urge Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio and Representative John Mica to all support legislation to reduce emissions, making sure they understand that a carbon tax with rebate to the public is the best policy to lower emissions and protect families.

Rabbi Judy Weiss

Volunteer member of Citizens' Climate Lobby, an organization of volunteers lobbying for legislation to stabilize the climate

<http://www.heritagefl.com/story/2014/06/13/opinions/yes-to-climate-change-through-lower-emissions/2849.html?m=true>

Newsday

6/13/2014

Letter to Editor

Lynn Meyer

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NY Queens-Nassau

President Barack Obama's plan to raise Environmental Protection Agency emissions standards is a good start, but it addresses only power plants and will not cut emissions to the level we need to avert a worst-case scenario within a few decades ["The power of competition," Editorial, June 8].

The only measure that would result in a rapid decline in heat-trapping emissions is a gradually increasing carbon tax. The revenue-neutral carbon tax proposed by the nonpartisan group Citizens' Climate Lobby is economically sound and should satisfy those who prefer free-market solutions over government regulations.

Leading economists at both ends of the political spectrum agree that a carbon tax at energy sources would not only cut fossil fuel use, but would create an abundance of jobs in clean energy. Returning the revenue to households in the form of dividend checks would offset inflationary effects and render the plan palatable to conservative members of Congress.

A carbon tax would essentially level the economic playing field between fossil fuels and clean energy, and allow the free market to choose.

Lynn Meyer, Bayside

<http://www.newsday.com/opinion/letters/cut-emissions-tax-carbon-production-letters-1.8429302>

Echo Press

6/13/2014

Letter to Editor

Ken Howell

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MN Alexandria

Climate change is a moral issue

To the editor:

Recently, St. Mary's Catholic Church in Alexandria hosted an evening of reflection and discussion on the issue of climate change. Sponsored by the church JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) committee, Dr. Bernard Evans from the Theology Department at St. John's University outlined the teachings of the Catholic and other major mainstream religions (Protestant, Muslim and Jewish) on this important topic.

The leaders of these faith groups have diligently reviewed the scientific literature related to climate change and accept the conclusions of the community of global climate experts that have studied this issue. They also clearly understand that we have a moral responsibility to address the current and potential negative effects on the natural environment and all of God's creatures. The impact of rising sea levels, multi-year droughts, and increase in destructive weather events exact a toll on all of us, but especially the poor who are least prepared. Care for creation is the ultimate pro-life issue.

People of faith should be advocates for policies that reduce greenhouse gases. Our churches should be leading the way in studying and taking action. The garden is ours - let's take care of it.

Link n/a

Winston-Salem Journal

6/14/2014

Letter to Editor

Bill Blancato, Winston-Salem

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NC Winston Salem

Time to do something

I see that the Republican-led N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources is critical of President Obama's plan to cut greenhouse-gas emissions ("N.C. GOP critical of emissions plan," June 3), but that no alternative plan was offered. Reports like the recent National Climate Assessment, the IPCC reports on the science, impacts and mitigation of climate change and the CNA Corporation Military Advisory Board explain that humans are the primary cause of climate change and that very bad things can happen if we don't do something about it.

One of the bad things is that cities like Norfolk, Va., and Miami will flood frequently because of rising sea levels. Miami Beach is spending up to \$400 million to deal with sea level rise. The question is not whether we should do something, but what we should do.

Maybe the Republicans will offer a solution that is favored by many respected Republicans like George Schultz, who was secretary of state for President Reagan and Gregory Mankiw, who was an economic advisor to George W. Bush and Mitt Romney: a revenue-neutral carbon tax. Such a tax has several advantages that Republicans might like -- one being that it lets the market solve the problem and another is that we can avoid imposing complex regulations to tackle the problem.

It's time to start talking about what to do about climate change, and it would be nice to know what solutions the Republicans will support instead of just hearing what they don't support.

http://www.journalnow.com/opinion/letters_to_the_editor/the-readers-forum-saturday-letters/article_e4302002-f313-11e3-95c4-0017a43b2370.html

Deseret News

6/15/2014

Letter to Editor

Robert Speiser

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter UT Salt Lake City

Letter: Smart warming plan

I'm surprised by the hostile tone of so many comments to Gerald Elias' op-ed ("An economic benefit of a fee-and-dividend carbon tax," June 11). Climate change -- global warming -- isn't an opinion. It's a fact that all of us can see. Not just an overwhelming consensus of climate scientists stand with accumulating evidence. A solid majority of American voters, as poll after poll has shown, now feels that we need drastic, decisive steps to curb greenhouse emissions.

Denial and animosity won't help. We need to map ways forward that most Americans can live with, and start soon to follow them. The fee-and-dividend proposal offers a strongly market-driven way to curb emissions, while also, through the market rather than through regulation, it offers opportunities to benefit, beginning with the way we get our energy but going well beyond that. Why pay extra for fossil fuels when wind, solar and geothermal energy come free?

Another good thing this proposal offers is a chance for open, helpful conversation that could reach respectfully across party divisions. Fact: We need to move ahead. Opportunity: Let's stake out an open space for serious, committed, public conversation about the best way forward. I'm grateful that Mr. Elias wrote the way he did, and that this paper printed it.

Bob Speiser

Salt Lake City

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865605190/Smart-warming-plan.html>

Deseret News

6/15/2014

Op-Ed

Joe Andrade, Salt Lake City

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter UT Salt Lake City

Joe Andrade: Advanced energy and the governor's summit

The first half of your recent editorial "Weighing costs against benefits, in Utah and around the nation, necessary for sound energy development," (June 5) was promising --until this sentence:

"Utah's abundant reserves of shale oil and coal can continue to provide an environmentally acceptable burning of fossil fuels that will remain necessary."

That's like telling our kids to "do the right" but then letting them "do the wrong." The problem is that such fuels produce much larger amounts of CO₂ than natural gas. They also produce air polluting particulates and toxic element emissions.

There is nothing "environmentally acceptable" about burning fossil fuels --and it does not "remain necessary" to burn them --especially coal.

I am constantly amazed by assumptions, which are never stated implicitly, yet become so ingrained that they are now considered ideologies.

Some examples from the pulpit of the Governor's Energy Development Summit include:

Lt. Governor Cox and Energy Advisor Stewart spoke "clean coal" and "clean-burning coal." There is no such thing. Burning coal produces heat and releases CO₂. Increasing CO₂ in the atmosphere is heating the planet --that's how global warming works. Even if you could successfully sequester the CO₂ (which is really only feasible via feeding it to algae or plants), nearly the entire Periodic Table of the Elements is in coal and shale --and, upon combustion or other processing, is released into the air, water or ash --and that includes a variety of very toxic elements. Even good, efficient combustion and controls still release large quantities of toxic particulates. The particles and the toxic elements are key components of the air quality problem. Combusting (or liquefying or gasifying) coal can, therefore, never be clean.

The Energy Summit's keynote speaker was Ted Nordhaus, an environmental policy expert and the chairman of The Breakthrough Institute in Oakland, California. The Breakthrough Institute now advocates natural gas and nuclear power and argues against using coal. I watched Gov.

Herbert's somewhat strained face as his invited speaker spoke about climate change, CO2 and the death of coal --in a forum which has almost never had these words spoken from the major podium.

The recent editorial suggested cost-benefit analyses. Nordhaus basically expressed the new reality --the current cost-benefit analysis --already playing out in the energy markets. His institute's recent report, "Coal Killer" (referring to natural gas) outlines that new reality.

The Governor should let coal go --unless he wants to be perceived as an 18th century holdover. Lt. Gov. Cox and Energy Advisor Cody Stewart need to do the same. Our new reality is becoming well understood, especially by those in the energy and resource markets. It's not Obama or the EPA that's killing coal, it's natural gas and the new renewables.

The Deseret News should also "choose the right" and not continue to suggest "environmentally acceptable burning of fossil fuels."

Joe Andrade is a retired professor of engineering, from University of Utah. He has worked as a scientist, engineer and educator. He attended the 2014 Governor's Energy Development Summit.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865605188/Advanced-energy-and-the-governors-summit.html?pg=all>

Sacramento Bee

6/15/2014

Letter to Editor

Christine Bailey, Gold River, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Create jobs, save lives with carbon dividend

Re "Keep profit out of climate solutions" (Forum, June 8): Regional Economic Modeling, Inc., a highly respected, non-ideological non-partisan economic modeling firm, recently released their nationwide study on the impact of a carbon fee at the source with a dividend of 100 percent of the revenue returned directly back to American households.

Their report shows that with this dividend, a carbon fee would create 2.1 million new jobs in the first 10 years, make a 33 percent reduction in CO2 emissions in first 10 years and a 52 percent reduction in CO2 emissions after 20 years. It would prevent 13,000 premature deaths in first 10 years.

This is a game-changer for the economic debate on climate change. This market-based approach creates jobs, enlarges the economy, saves lives and makes Americans richer. We now have no reason not to act on this issue that will affect all of us and everything we love.

-- Christine Bailey, Gold River

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/15/6469284/create-jobs-save-lives-with-carbon.html>

Orange County Register

6/15/2014

Letter to Editor

Margaret Henke

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Orange County

I wonder how many environmentalists columnist James Poulos actually knows [“The dogmatic environmentalist trusts in government, not God,” Opinion, June 8]? I am involved in an interfaith environmental group with hundreds of participants, and for those I know, their belief in a higher power is a big part of the reason they are so actively involved in environmental issues.

All religions care about the common good and the future for others over their own personal good, which is what religious prophets of all faiths teach and what many believe in. Since the natural world is our life-support system, we are naturally concerned about all the harm we humans are causing to the planet, and what this will mean for now and for those who come after us. Many also believe we have a responsibility to the other creatures here on Earth, which are disappearing at a very rapid rate.

We know that global climate change is real, and the only reason many are looking to the government is that we are beginning to realize that individual actions and even congregational actions are not going to be enough.

We realize that we need policy changes, and making fossil fuels more expensive would help move us along faster to alternative energy solutions. Saying we trust in government over God is a stretch and just not true.

Margaret Henke

North Tustin

<http://www.ocregister.com/letters/ddt-618173-many-government.html>

Sacramento Bee

6/15/2014

Letter to Editor

Harold Ferber, Elk Grove, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Talking to climate change opponents

Re "Obama jibes climate naysayers at UC Irvine commencement" (Capitol & California, June 15): This article reflects the quandary of climate activists as to how to move climate change opponents to a more climate friendly position. This is necessary so that Republican members of congress feel they have permission from their base to seek legislative solutions to climate change.

Right now, the base views climate change as a culture war issue. No amount of scientific evidence can prevail once an issue is defined in culture war terms. This applies to the political left as well as the right.

The irony is that climate change solutions, like a revenue carbon tax, are entirely consistent with conservative principles. Solutions like this will allow conservatives to demonstrate that non-bureaucratic, non-regulatory reliance on the free market can solve a major societal issue. Our burden is to make this case respectfully to conservatives.

-- Harold Ferber, Elk Grove

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/15/6485259/talking-to-climate-change-opponents.html>

Herald Tribune

6/15/2014

Letter to Editor

Lynn Goldfarb, Lancaster, PA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Lancaster

A carbon tax paid to us

Thanks to the author of the excellent June 12 letter "Carbon tax is a win-win." My support for a revenue-neutral carbon tax comes from the fact that both my daughter and her husband are climate scientists who work with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scientists and the National Academies of Sciences, so I know just how dire the threat of global warming is and how urgent the need is to make drastic cuts in carbon dioxide emissions.

However, I also understand the concerns people have about the economic consequences of cutting carbon emissions.

The Regional Economic Models Inc. study confirms that a revenue-neutral carbon tax would not only make much bigger and faster CO2 emissions cuts than the proposed EPA regulations; it would create millions of good-paying jobs while putting money in the taxpayers' pockets. That's because the carbon tax would be paid to us, the energy consumers. This tax would also apply to imports from carbon-polluting countries like China, forcing them to go green faster and allowing Americans to use that tax money to buy American products.

Eight Nobel economists endorse this plan. The Citizens Climate Lobby, a nonpartisan volunteer group, has details on this carbon tax that's paid to citizens. It is truly a win-win for our economy and our climate. We can make it a reality if enough of us contact Congress and demand that it act.

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20140615/ARCHIVES/406151013/-1/search10?p=3&tc=pg>

Philadelphia Inquirer

6/16/2014

Letter to Editor

Alan M. Windle Philadelphia

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Philadelphia

ISSUE | SHIFTING CLIMATE

Crack coal's grip on U.S. energy future

I share the concerns about jobs and affordable energy that John Pippy of the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance highlights ("Tap all sources of energy," June 9). I want the lights to go on in my house when I flip the switch. My high-tech office requires a lot of energy. And I want my children to find well-paying jobs. Coal has for centuries been a solid foundation on which we built our economy, but we now know that the true cost of coal is not reflected in the market price. When the considerable health and environmental impacts are factored in, coal is not the cheap energy source that we so long believed. We must move beyond coal, and fossil fuels generally, into cleaner energy sources. The technologies to do this already exist, but making the transition will require vision and resolve. Those are character resources that we have shown in great abundance to meet earlier challenges. We can find them again. Shifting our economy to renewable energy is by far the most important great thing that we could do for ourselves, our descendants, and all of God's creation.

http://www.inquirer.com/opinion/letters/20140616_CHARTERS__Doing_well_while_doing_good.html

The Signal

6/16/2014

Op-Ed

Cher Gilmore, Santa Clarita

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Santa Clarita

Tax carbon, help the economy

For years, policy-makers have assumed that any program to address global warming by cutting carbon emissions would be a drag on the economy and cause massive job losses.

The issue has been repeatedly framed as an either-or choice: we can either improve the economy or save the environment.

Now a new study by Regional Economic Models Inc. has turned that notion on its head.

Regional Economic Models Inc. has provided economic impact analyses for private-sector clients as well as state and local governments, academic institutions and nonprofit research organizations for 34 years.

The REMI study found that a gradually increasing fee on carbon, with all revenues returned to households, would not only add millions of jobs, but also stimulate the economy.

More specifically, by 2025, we would add 2.2 million jobs, raise the gross domestic product by more than \$80 billion annually, rebate a four-person family \$3,480 per year, reduce carbon emissions by 33 percent, and save 13,000 lives a year due to improved air quality.

The study analyzed the economic impact of a gradually increasing fee or tax on the carbon content of fossil fuels, with all revenue returned to households.

The fee, assessed at the point of extraction or import, would start at \$10 per ton of CO₂ and increase by \$10 per ton each year.

Border tariffs were factored in to keep the global playing field level for U.S. corporations. Revenue was divided into equal shares, with one share going to each adult and a half-share to each child, up to two children per household.

Returning the revenue to households would protect families from rising energy costs and ensure their support through the transition to renewable energy. That is important because popular

support would be necessary to maintain the program long enough to achieve the needed reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

The report shows emissions reductions would be at 52 percent of baseline by 2035 and 80 percent by mid-century.

This would keep us below the 2 degrees Celsius increase in warming that scientists say is the maximum we can safely tolerate.

British Columbia implemented a revenue-neutral carbon tax five years ago, and while per capita greenhouse gas emissions have decreased 9.9 percent, that province's GDP has grown more than the rest of Canada's, and 64 percent of the population supports the policy. The plan works.

If fear of economic pain has kept legislators from taking action to cut carbon emissions, the results of this study --along with British Columbia's experience --should calm their nerves and motivate them to take another look at the carbon fee and dividend approach.

In the absence of such a solution, the Obama administration is proceeding with Environmental Protection Agency regulations to limit carbon pollution from coal-burning power plants.

Republicans in Congress are already lining up to block those rules, but the Supreme Court has issued repeated rulings recently that the EPA has both the authority and responsibility to regulate carbon as a pollutant.

Further challenges are unlikely to succeed.

There is already big-name support for the carbon fee approach in the conservative camp --for example, Former Secretary of State George Schultz and Greg Mankiw, economic advisor to President George W. Bush and presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

They argue that the price of fossil fuels does not reflect the health, security and environmental costs resulting from their use. If we fix this price distortion, the market will gravitate toward cleaner energy without the need for regulations or subsidies.

Failure to dramatically reduce the greenhouse gas emissions we pump into the atmosphere daily will have consequences that could exceed our capacity to adapt.

That is the conclusion of climate studies recently released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the National Climate Assessment.

If we do little or nothing, the reports say, we'll experience more of the extreme weather events we've already seen, more diseases, more damaged infrastructure, more flooding and drought, and more food and water shortages, among many other unsettling consequences.

Inaction is no longer an option.

The good news is that this study changes the whole conversation around global warming and the ways to contain it. It shows there is no economic argument against a national fee and dividend program.

This plan creates jobs, grows the economy, saves lives and makes Americans richer. And it does all this while reducing carbon emissions enough to prevent catastrophic warming.

What politician could be against those results?

If Republicans --or Democrats --want to avoid the regulatory approach, they should get on board with this market-based, win-win solution.

<http://www.signalscv.com/section/33/article/121858/>

Omaha World Herald

6/16/2014

Letter to Editor

Moni Usasz, Lincoln

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NE Lincoln

Food risks underline need for carbon fee

Introducing a carbon fee and dividend becomes ever more critical as studies mount on the costs and dangers of climate change.

A report from the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, co-chaired by former U.S. Rep. Doug Bereuter, R-Neb., says climate change not only threatens how much food can be grown but its quality as well --reducing the protein content of wheat, for example. The council is not a far-left think tank but a group of agri-business leaders, including Howard Buffett, who are concerned with their profits and food security as well as feeding people.

The report's food-security suggestions would be furthered by a carbon-fee-and-dividend approach, if passed by Congress. It could prevent carbon from rising in the atmosphere by levying fees on carbon production at the mine, well or border, which would help level the playing field for other energy sources to compete with coal, oil and gas.

Moni Usasz, Lincoln

http://www.omaha.com/opinion/the-public-pulse-june/article_212e9090-5348-59d1-8dd6-1bee5667a23d.html

The Herald Sun

6/17/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Fighting climate change

Thank you for publishing Teresa Rosenberger's article "Climate change, the Outer Banks and cherished traditions." She worries rising seas will make Cape Hatteras uninhabitable, depriving her descendants of traditions her family developed there.

Rosenberger can start fighting climate change by contacting Rep. David Price and thanking him for praising the EPA for issuing proposed regulations to unite our nation in an effort to reduce carbon emissions and slow climate change.

However, the best way to fight climate change is via a carbon tax to be paid by fossil fuel producers and rebated to households. A carbon tax would cut emissions while boosting our economy and creating roughly 2 million jobs within 10 years. Rebates to households would offset energy price increases shielding lower and middle income families. Who says a rebated carbon tax would work such miracles? See a report released by Regional Economic Models Inc. on June 9, 2014.

Yet a carbon tax requires Congressional legislation. Individuals can fight climate change by helping to create the political will for Congress to pass climate change legislation.

I urge Teresa and her fellow students at Duke University to join the Raleigh-Durham chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby and learn how to become effective citizen-advocates for climate stabilization.

Rabbi Judy Weiss

Brookline, MA

<http://www.heraldsun.com/opinion/x2015119941/Letters-to-the-Editor-June-17>

Poughkeepsie Journal

6/17/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

We can aid environment and the economy

Thank you for publishing Leonard Pitts' terrific op-ed article on the way Republican politicians are responding to the most recent climate reports with the ludicrous meme: "I'm not a scientist" ("GOP response to climate change resolution is gutless" June 9) However, his suggestion that they act like adults and choose to fix the environment while supposedly destroying the economy won't convince a politician to eat his earlier climate change denial words. Can we help Republicans talk about climate change while retaining their honor?

How about revealing new information indicating we don't have to choose between the environment and the economy? On June 9, Regional Economic Modeling Inc (REMI) released a study of the effects of a national carbon tax on our emissions and our economy. The results? Assuming the carbon tax is rebated 100 percent to the public via monthly rebate checks, a gradually increasing carbon tax can drive down emissions while growing our job market by 2.1 million jobs in the first 10 years. Monthly rebate checks protect low- and middle-class families from energy price increases. Even more amazing: while electricity prices will rise during the first years, by the tenth year, electricity prices will begin to plummet as more and more emissions-free energy come online.

If journalists and readers review and publicize REMI's results, politicians will eat it up! Please contact Citizens' Climate Lobby (www.citizensclimatelobby) for more information on REMI's report on the impact of a national carbon tax.

Rabbi Judy Weiss

Member, Citizens' Climate Lobby

Brookline, Mass.

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/story/opinion/letters/2014/06/16/letters-climate-gmos-politicians/10635613/>

Sacramento Bee

6/17/2014

Letter to Editor

Mike Segor, San Luis Obispo

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA San Luis Obispo

More is needed to save oceans

Re "Obama setting aside massive Pacific Ocean preserve" (Business, June 17): In his Oceans Summit, Secretary of State John Kerry is hoping to raise international awareness of the multiple threats faced by the world's oceans. The expansion of the Pacific marine sanctuary will go a long way toward saving endangered species.

We are already familiar with overfishing and dead zones created by agricultural runoff. However, the most irreversible damage is being done by climate change. Warmer water is killing coral reefs, leaving them bleached white.

Now scientists are discovering that dissolved carbon dioxide is making the water acidic and corrosive. The UK Royal Society said when carbon dioxide reaches 450ppm, coral reefs will be in "rapid and terminal decline world-wide from both temperature induced bleaching and ocean acidification." We are only 25 years from this scenario if we continue business as usual.

I urge readers to support a revenue-neutral carbon tax to ensure a future of clean energy.

-- Michael Segor, San Luis Obispo

Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/17/6491030/more-is-needed-to-save-oceans.html#storylink=cpy>

[sacbee.com/2014/06/17/6491030/more-is-needed-to-save-oceans.html](http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/17/6491030/more-is-needed-to-save-oceans.html)

Baltimore Sun

6/17/2014

Letter to Editor

Rick Knight, Brookfield IL

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter IL Chicago Southwest

Carbon tax is the rational choice

I agree with Ned Tillman's commentary ("Reducing carbon emissions has practical benefits," June 12) touting the health and economic virtues of replacing coal-fired power with non-fossil sources, which is one likely outcome of the new EPA rules announced this month.

But the possibilities are even better if Congress will wake up to their responsibility to help meet the challenge of lowering greenhouse gas emissions. According to a study just released by Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI), a market-friendly revenue-neutral fee on carbon would not only reduce global warming emissions quite dramatically, but it would actually create net jobs and economic growth across the nation.

How is this possible? And what is "revenue-neutral?"

Government does not keep a penny of the proceeds collected from fossil fuel suppliers as a carbon dumping fee. All of the money is returned to the public through monthly dividend checks. This pumps money right back into the economy, and the REMI study shows that it will actually create over 2 million jobs in 10 years while reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33 percent. Not only that but the ancillary health benefits would save over 200,000 American lives. And all this can be achieved without complex, contentious, intrusive regulations because it allows the market to do the work. Inventors, entrepreneurs and investors will seek out the best ways to minimize the burden of the carbon fee. Government will not pick winners and losers.

But this requires political courage from lawmakers who, even when they understand the value of a policy, quake at the thought of being accused of raising taxes by their opponents. Cynical pundits laugh at the prospect of actually passing such a rational bill into law.

But pundits do not create political will nor do the politicians. Only citizens can do that. So it is up to all of us (you and me) to demand action from our elected officials --not just President Barack Obama but those other 535 souls who populate the U.S. Congress. They have to power to make or break our future and that of our children. Make them do the right thing!

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/opinion/readersrespond/bs-ed-climate-letter-20140617,0,2463977.story>

The Tennessean

6/17/2014

Letter to Editor

Ann Ercelawn, Nashville TN

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter TN Nashville

It's time for a carbon tax

When the kids in our family make a mess, we ask them clean it up. When corporations in our society make a mess, shouldn't the same be expected of them? Yet, carbon pollution from fossil fuels has been ignored far too long.

The EPA's new rules on carbon emissions are a welcome first step in the right direction to tame our dangerously wild weather, improve the health of our citizens, and create jobs in the renewable energy sector. An alternative means to this end is for Congress to pass a carbon tax, with all proceeds distributed back to families to offset any rising energy costs and speed the transition to clean, renewable energy. Sens. Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander, the ball is in your court.

Ann Ercelawn

Nashville

<http://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/06/18/time-carbon-tax/10693159/>

JC Online

Lafayette Journal and Courier

6/17/2014

Letter to Editor

Lynn Goldfarb, Lancaster, PA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Lancaster

Why go to Mars with Problems Here on Earth?

I agree with a recent letter, "Mars shouldn't be our first priority." The idea of spending taxpayer money on a mission to Mars when we are facing the greatest crisis in human history is ludicrous.

My daughter and her husband are both climate scientists who work with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scientists and the National Academies of Sciences on the international level. Through them, I've learned how dire the threat of global warming is. They fear for the future of their children.

The latest IPCC reports warn we must have major cuts in greenhouse gas in the next 15 years and 80 percent cuts by 2050 if we are to avoid "catastrophic" global warming.

We need a revenue-neutral carbon tax that's paid by fossil fuels to consumers, not the government. We use the tax money to buy reviewable energy because the tax makes fossil fuels increasingly more expensive. We'll also tax imports from carbon polluters. Americans can buy U.S. products with that tax money. This plan is endorsed by eight Nobel economists and a new Regional Economic Models Inc. report shows it will create millions of jobs while cutting CO2 emissions more than EPA regulations.

Climate change disasters have already cost U.S. taxpayers over \$1 trillion, according to NOAA, and the International Energy Agency estimates two more years of delaying major cuts in greenhouse gas emissions will cost \$4 trillion.

The Citizens Climate Lobby website has more on the revenue-neutral carbon tax. Make Congress feel the heat if you want action on this.

<http://www.jconline.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/06/16/letters-editor-june/10613565/>

The Fresno Bee

6/17/2014

Letter to Editor

Pete Moe, Fresno

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Fresno

California shines in clean energy

The Bee's editorial on June 5, "California leads way in efforts to cut reliance on fossil fuels," was well written. It recognizes that California leads the country toward a cleaner, healthier future. Seth Tilley's letter June 11 entitled "It's smart business" is also dead on. I sense a seismic shift of attitudes in the Fresno area. The San Joaquin Valley produces the most solar power per capita in the entire country. The benefits of this are incredible: reductions in climate-changing CO₂, cleaner air, cleaner water, an overall healthier environment and hugely increased energy security. Not to mention high-paying jobs. The exciting thing is we are in the infancy of this revolution in renewable energy here in Fresno and in the United States. The economic benefits are staggering. I'm less a fan of cap-and-trade markets, and a big fan of the much simpler, business friendly revenue-neutral carbon tax. I invite readers of The Bee to get excited about this and join other voices, such as the folks at the Fresno Citizens' Climate Lobby, to push harder toward a clean, healthy and prosperous future.

Pete Moe, Clovis

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/06/17/3983029/california-shines-in-clean-energy.html?sp=/99/274/>

The Tennessean

6/17/2014

Letter to Editor

Ann Ercelawn, Nashville TN

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter TN Nashville

It's Time for a Carbon Tax

When the kids in our family make a mess, we ask them clean it up. When corporations in our society make a mess, shouldn't the same be expected of them? Yet, carbon pollution from fossil fuels has been ignored far too long.

The EPA's new rules on carbon emissions are a welcome first step in the right direction to tame our dangerously wild weather, improve the health of our citizens, and create jobs in the renewable energy sector. An alternative means to this end is for Congress to pass a carbon tax, with all proceeds distributed back to families to offset any rising energy costs and speed the transition to clean, renewable energy. Sens. Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander, the ball is in your court.

Ann Ercelawn

Nashville 37205

<http://www.tennessean.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/06/18/time-carbon-tax/10693159/>

Westmoreland News

6/18/2014

Letter to Editor

Gregory T Haugan, Heathsville, VA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter VA Northern Neck

Global warming solution

Recent reports on the impact of global warming and subsequent climate change underscore the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A new comprehensive study finds that an excise fee on carbon can reduce those emissions while also adding jobs to the economy ““ if the revenues are returned to households.

The study, conducted by Regional Economic Models, Inc., examined application of an excise fee on the carbon-dioxide content of fossil fuels. The fee would start at \$10 per ton, increasing at \$10 per ton each year. Revenue from the fee would be returned to households in equal shares as direct payments. Under this approach, recycling the revenue back into the economy would add 2.2 million jobs over ten years. Improvements in air quality would save 13,000 lives a year. Emissions would decline by 33 percent.

What this study illustrates is that by giving the revenue back to the people, a carbon excise fee will actually stimulate the economy. The big objection to a carbon tax has been that it would kill jobs. That assumption is now shown to be false if the revenues are returned to households and not used for governmental purposes. The REMI study provides detailed annual output data by region and by sector of the economy supporting the conclusions.

For those opposed to more government regulations like those issued last week by EPA, the best recourse is to apply a revenue-neutral carbon excise fee. This is supported by conservatives from George Shultz to Greg Mankiw. With the REMI study showing a carbon fee that returns revenue to households and will add millions of jobs, this is the option everyone can embrace as a real free market solution.

Readers should contact Congressman Wittman and request that he support this conservative alternative to government regulations.

Gregory T Haugan, PhD, Heathsville

Link n/a home page is www.westmorelandnews.net

Rappahannock Times

6/18/2014

Letter to Editor

Gregory T Haugan, Heathsville, VA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter VA Northern Neck

Free market solution to global warming

Recent reports on the impact of global warming and subsequent climate change underscore the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A new comprehensive study released June 9 finds that an excise fee on carbon can reduce those emissions while also adding jobs to the economy ““ if the revenues are returned to households.

The study, conducted by Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), examined an excise fee on the carbon-dioxide content of fossil fuels. The fee would start at \$10 per ton, increasing at \$10 per ton each year. Revenue from the fee would be returned to households in equal shares as direct payments. Under this approach, the REMI study found that recycling the revenue back into the economy would add 2.2 million jobs over ten years. Improvements in air quality would save 13,000 lives a year. Emissions would decline by 33 percent.

What this study shows is that by giving the revenue back to the people, a carbon excise fee will actually stimulate the economy. The big objection to a carbon tax has been that it would kill jobs and increase the debt. That assumption is now shown to be false if the revenues are returned to households and not used for governmental purposes. This is revenue neutral and passes the “no new taxes” test. The REMI study provides detailed annual output data by region and by sector of the economy and can be found on the web.

Last month, the National Climate Assessment reported that the impact of climate change is already being felt across the nation in the form of severe drought, rising sea levels, extreme weather, wildfires and heat waves. As a step to reduce the future risk of climate change, the Obama administration last week unveiled new regulations from the Environmental Protection Agency to limit greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

For those of us opposed to more regulations, the best recourse is to apply a revenue-neutral carbon excise fee. This is supported by conservatives from George Shultz to Greg Mankiw. With the REMI study showing a carbon fee that returns revenue to households will add millions of jobs, this is the option everyone can embrace as a real solution, and it is a free market solution.

REMI is not a new company, since 1980 they have provided economic impact studies for governmental and private-sector clients including the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC), consulting firms Booz Allen Hamilton and Ernst & Young, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) among others.

Contact Congressman Wittman, congratulate him on winning the primary, and request that he support this conservative alternative to government regulations.

Gregory T Haugan, Sr

Heathsville

No Link to LTE, paper only has email and Facebook page

The Capital Times

6/18/2014

Op-Ed

Tom Sinclair and Madeleine Para

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Madison

Give credit where it's due.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants shows that the Obama administration is serious about putting the brakes on global warming. Any movement in that direction is good news.

But opponents already are challenging the new EPA rules on multiple fronts. This could stall progress when we need it most. And even if the administration prevails, the outcome won't be enough to get climate change under control.

Although power plants are the biggest single source of carbon dioxide emissions in the U.S., they produce only a third of the nation's total. The EPA plan would cut power plant emissions by 30 percent while leaving other sources untouched. Scientists say we must cut the equivalent of 80 percent of emissions from all sources by 2050 to keep global warming manageable.

Only Congress can tackle CO2 emissions comprehensively, and so far, Congress has failed to act. But a study released June 9 by the nonpartisan Citizens' Climate Lobby could be a game-changer. It's available online at citizensclimatelobby.org.

The study, conducted by Regional Economic Models Inc. (REMI), found that a revenue-neutral carbon tax would cut total CO2 emissions in the U.S. by 33 percent after 10 years and 52 percent after 20 years --far more than the EPA rules.

The tax would be applied to the carbon content of fossil fuels and paid by the companies that produce them. Starting at \$10 per ton of carbon, it would rise \$10 each year until emissions targets are reached. Economists say this would trigger a market shift toward cleaner alternatives.

To protect American businesses from overseas competitors not subject to similar conditions, border tariffs would be imposed on imports and credits given to exports. This would, in turn, pressure nations like China that trade with the U.S. to pursue emissions reductions of their own.

Ready for the silver lining?

In the REMI study, every dollar collected from the tax would go straight to us, the American public. A family of two adults and two children would receive nearly \$3,500 in dividends annually after 10 years. For most households, this would more than offset higher consumer prices from the tax.

As we spend this money, we would pump \$400 billion annually into the economy. The ripple effects would generate more than 2 million jobs in the first decade --all kinds of jobs, from health care to retail, from construction to arts and entertainment.

REMI says the five-state region encompassing Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio alone would see an increase of 400,000 jobs by 2025 and air-quality improvements worth \$30 billion a year. Cleaner air across the region would reduce the number of premature deaths by 28,000 in a decade. New job opportunities combined with better environmental conditions would attract 600,000 more people to live here.

Economists of all political persuasions have endorsed a carbon tax as the simplest, most efficient tool to rein in greenhouse gas emissions. Now we have strong evidence that a revenue-neutral carbon tax would be good for the economy, too.

President Obama has said he prefers a market-oriented approach to head off global warming. There's still time for Congress to get behind the idea.

Republicans have a chance to address a serious problem about which there is no longer any legitimate doubt, with minimal government intrusion. Democrats have a chance to confront that problem more fully while creating jobs and improving public health. Both parties have a chance to show the American people they can still find common ground when the stakes are high.

http://host.madison.com/news/opinion/column/tom-sinclair-and-madeleine-para-carbon-tax-would-stabilize-climate/article_df32b17a-e78c-5ef5-85a0-1ec17c08eec6.html#ixzz3579qqUVa

Sacramento Bee

6/18/2014

Letter to Editor

Harold Ferber, Elk Grove, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Climate change, free market

Re "Obama jabs climate naysayers at UC Irvine commencement" (Capitol & California, June 15): This article reflects the quandary climate activists have about how to move climate change opponents to a friendlier position.

This is necessary so that Republican members of Congress feel they have permission from their base to seek legislative solutions to climate change.

Right now, the base views climate change as a culture war issue. Scientific evidence cannot prevail once an issue is defined in culture war terms. This applies to the political left as well as the right.

The irony is that climate change solutions, such as a carbon tax, are entirely consistent with conservative principles. Such solutions would allow conservatives to demonstrate that non-bureaucratic, non-regulatory reliance on the free market can solve a major societal issue. Our burden is to make this case respectfully to conservatives.

Harold Ferber, Elk Grove

Link n/a (hard copy of LTE published online 6/15/2014)

Colonial Beach Journal Press

6/18/2014

Letter to Editor

Hope Jackson

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter VA Northern Neck

Global warming solution

Recent reports on the impact of global warming and subsequent climate change underscore the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A new comprehensive economic, financial, energy and demographic study finds that an excise fee on carbon can reduce those emissions while also adding jobs to the economy ““ if the revenues are returned to households.

The study, conducted by Regional Economic Models, Inc.,(an experienced company providing services for private and public sector organizations since 1980) examined application of an annually increasing excise fee on the carbon-dioxide content of fossil fuels. Revenue from the fee would be returned to households in equal shares as direct payments. Under this approach, recycling the revenue back into the economy would add 2.2 million jobs over ten years. Improvements in air quality would save 13,000 lives a year. Emissions would decline by 33 percent.

For those opposed to more government regulations like those issued last week by EPA, the preferred alternative is to apply this revenue-neutral fee which is also supported by conservative economists. This is the option everyone can embrace as a real free market solution.

Readers should contact Congressman Wittman and request that he support this conservative alternative to government regulations.

Hope Jackson

Hague

n/a no link to LTE paper is at www.journalpress.com

The Tribune

6/19/2014

Letter to Editor

Jackie Crane, San Luis Obispo

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA San Luis Obispo

By Jackie Crane

It's understandable that the general public would be overwhelmed by the fact that climate change is here, threatening life as we know it. Extreme weather events, drought, threatened economies, rising sea levels and severe air pollution are now part of our daily lives.

What can we do when faced with such a crushing challenge? Our first step is to accept that now is the time to "flip the switch" from fossil fuels to renewable energies. Scientific consensus tells us we can't afford to wait. We must act now.

The Huasna Valley drilling proposal presents us with an opportunity for action. Aside from the ancillary concerns of traffic, noise, water quality, potential spills and fire risk, the most critical issue is the continued extraction of fossil fuel.

"The Carbon Tracker Initiative" cites that the total amount of known, extractable fossil fuel is currently five times the amount we can safely burn. So, why bother with finding more to burn?

Further oil exploration is not an option. Together, we can "flip the switch" from dirty to clean energy.

Our next step is action. Contact our county Board of Supervisors and tell them to oppose the Huasna Valley proposal.

Read more here: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2014/06/19/3118103/oppose-proposal.html?sp=/99/181/#storylink=cpy>

[sanluisobispo.com/2014/06/19/3118103/oppose-proposal.html?sp=/99/181/](http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2014/06/19/3118103/oppose-proposal.html?sp=/99/181/)

The Herald News

6/19/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Letter: Carbon tax would help economy

Thank you for your terrific editorial on how Massachusetts and our New England neighbors are ahead of the pack on reducing emissions because we got an early start. emailprint 0

Thank you for your terrific editorial on how Massachusetts and our New England neighbors are ahead of the pack on reducing emissions because we got an early start.

In fact, a recent study by REMI (Regional Economic Models Inc.) analyzed the effects of a carbon tax that starts low and gradually increases. For the first 10 years, electricity prices will increase, but around year 10, prices will drop precipitously because plenty of alternative energy will come on line.

This is why most carbon tax proposals suggest collecting the tax from fossil fuel producers and rebating it to households. Individuals can use the rebates to pay their higher utility bills during those first 10 years, or they can improve energy efficiency and switch to cleaner energy using the rebates and then watch their utility costs decrease.

In addition, you discuss "those who say reducing carbon emissions will hurt the economy." The REMI study shows that a carbon tax will cause the economy to boom and jobs to increase by roughly 2 million nationwide.

Two million jobs and the elimination of harmful emissions are not just little waves to surf; it is a giant tsunami.

Judy Weiss

Brookline

Volunteer member of Citizens' Climate Lobby

<http://www.heraldnews.com/article/20140619/OPINION/140615438/2011/OPINION>

Columbia Daily Tribune

6/19/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

REMI study refutes critics of carbon tax

Editor, the Tribune: Thank you for Andrew Denney's coverage of the Regional Economic Models Inc. study of the economic benefits to be gained from a carbon tax that is rebated to the public via monthly rebate checks. REMI's study puts to rest the old notion that environmental legislation harms the economy and causes unemployment. Even though Sen. Roy Blunt has filed an amendment to prevent carbon tax legislation and declared it would lead to significant job losses, I hope he has a chance to review this new study that is filled with good news about jobs and the economy.

Also, regarding the issue that a carbon tax will force Americans to pay more to heat and cool their homes, if the carbon tax collected from fossil fuel producers is rebated to households, it will more than cover the extra expenses homeowners pay for energy.

Sen. Blunt need not worry any longer about his constituents being hurt by the economic effects of a carbon tax. Now it is time to protect them from pollution, severe storms, floods, extreme heat and other effects of global warming.

Judy Weiss, volunteer Citizens' Climate Lobby Boston Chapter

http://www.columbiatribune.com/import/remi-study-refutes-critics-of-carbon-tax/article_bba8e4e4-f7cc-11e3-819f-10604b9f6eda.html

Columbia Basin Farmer

6/19/2014

Article

Jim Amonette and Pat Fincher, Tri-Cities, WA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WA Tri-cities

Climate change impacts farms

June 19, 2014 | Filed under: Planning and Energy | Posted by: eric

Hardly a day goes by that we don't think about the weather. But we tend to ignore the climate -- unless, of course, we see some dreadful catastrophe on the news or witness a sharp exchange on the Sunday talk shows. At some point we recoil, flip the channel and look for something less likely to inflame our emotions, send us into deep depression or bore us to tears.

Yet, like it or not, climate matters a great deal to all of us. It defines the range in temperature and precipitation patterns that make up our weather. And it gives us an idea of the probability that a particular type of weather will occur. As the old saw goes, "Climate is what you expect; weather is what you get."

Because weather is a major factor in agriculture, the climate from which it is derived ultimately determines how well we eat.

You have undoubtedly heard of climate change. You may have formed definite opinions about whether it is occurring, whether mankind is responsible or whether it is anything to worry about at all. Or you may be frustrated and confused by the sea of conflicting information in the media and on the Internet. Whatever your opinions or experience, we hope this column will add to your knowledge, providing the background you need to understand how climate works and to assess the information you come across.

Most importantly, this column is meant to promote a civil, fact-based conversation about climate and climate change. We need to be talking with one another, rather than at or past one another, about this topic that is so vital to our general welfare.

Jim Amonette is an earth scientist and Patricia Fincher, a certified structural integrator. Both are volunteers with the Tri-Cities chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby. For more information contact wash.tricities@citizensclimatelobby.org.

<http://basinfarmer.com/?p=2632>

The News and Advance

6/19/2014

Letter to Editor

James Barton, Lynchburg, VA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter VA Lynchburg

Act now on climate change

Our dependence on fossil fuels to provide our increasing energy needs is the cause on global warming and the acceleration of climate change. We must begin to address this complex problem. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Regional Economic Models reports have the same message: We must act.

Until a tax is placed on carbon there is no incentive to develop renewable energy or to prioritize energy policy.

A revenue-neutral carbon tax is a market-based approach which provides incentives to reduce the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere. The carbon released would be taxed and these revenues returned to the consumers to off-set costs. The government does not subsidize or receive the revenue from this plan. It is revenue neutral.

This will not reduce atmospheric carbon to previous levels but we must slow its increase to reduce disrupted food production and water availability, mass migrations and competition for resources, and political instability all negative effects of global warming and accelerated climate change.

The level of commitment and cost to act will be high, but failure to act will be much higher.

JAMES BARTON

Monroe

http://www.newsadvance.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letters-to-the-editor-for-thursday-june/article_f669bc9c-f728-11e3-9780-001a4bcf6878.html

Long Beach Press Telegram

6/19/2014

Letter to Editor

Mark Tabbert

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Orange County

Carbon tax would clean the air, produce jobs

Re "Carbon fee offers win-win solution for global warming" (Commentary, June 15):

We're clearly past the point where individual action will be enough to meaningfully address climate change. Government regulations like the Environmental Protection Agency rules and subsidies won't be enough on their own. The problem is global.

Many newspaper editorial boards across the country have taken editorial positions favoring a carbon fee and dividend plan. Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg favored such a plan in 2007. It was also advocated by the late Nobel laureate economist Gary Becker. But I've never seen hard numbers like those reported by papers covering the Regional Economic Model Inc.

A carbon tax would clean the air and produce jobs. It also would encourage other countries to follow suit with border tariffs assessed on countries which don't follow our lead.

--Mark Tabbert, Newport Beach

<http://www.pesstelegram.com/opinion/20140618/district-must-be-part-of-solution-in-labor-dispute-letters>

York Dispatch

6/19/2014

Jon Clark, Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Dover-York

OP-ED: The West Antarctic tipping point

Citizens Climate Lobby

Last month, the White House released its National Climate Assessment. The assessment is a product of the U.S. Global Change Research Program, which "was established by Presidential Initiative in 1989 and mandated by Congress in the Global Change Research Act (GCRA) of 1990 to 'assist the Nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change.'"

The assessment sums up the problem with this statement: "Global climate is changing and this is apparent across the United States in a wide range of observations. The global warming of the past 50 years is primarily due to human activities, predominantly the burning of fossil fuels."

To see how climate change is affecting the U.S. already, readers should check out the National Climate Assessment state-of-the-art website at <http://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>.

Right on the heels of the that release, two major peer-reviewed studies were published in Science and Geophysical Research Letters. Two different studies using different methods came to the same startling conclusion --glaciers in the Amundsen Sea region of the great Antarctic ice sheet have begun the process of irreversible collapse.

That by itself would raise sea levels 4 feet in the coming centuries. Even worse, due to the topography these glaciers act "as a linchpin on the rest of the [West Antarctic] ice sheet, which contains enough ice to cause" a total of 12 to 15 feet of global sea level rise, as the University of Washington news release for the Science study explains. Think of the melting of these glaciers like pulling the cork out of a bottle tipped on its side, its contents are the West Antarctic ice sheet spilling into the ocean.

In their latest report out this year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns of sea level rise of one to three feet this century. These new findings mean sea level rise estimates will be revised upward yet again.

Our climate is changing faster than the science can keep up.

Scientists have been warning us of several feared tipping points, and it appears we've passed the first, which will result in the irreversible collapse of the West Antarctic ice sheet. While the ice

sheet's collapse certainly won't happen overnight, it has passed a point of no return and is irreversible.

Our refusal to own up to our responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions immediately will result in much higher sea levels that devastate the world's coastlines. Many cities are already dealing with rising seas. Mitt Romney made a now infamous joke at the 2012 Republican convention, "President Obama promised to slow the rise of the oceans," which got a huge laugh from the crowd. Months later coastal residents in New Jersey and New York weren't laughing as storm surge from Hurricane Sandy devastated their communities, a problem made worse by sea levels that have already risen.

After this a \$20 billion proposal to build sea walls to protect New York City from rising seas and storm surge was announced.

This is the cost to protect just one city. Imagine the staggering costs we are putting on future generations to protect thousands of coastal communities worldwide. Communities that don't have the resources to fend for themselves will likely be abandoned and taxpayers will shoulder the immense costs of protection for those lucky enough to be afforded protection.

Sea levels have risen due to thermal expansion (as oceans warm they expand) and melt of land-based ice draining into the seas; This is a measured and observed fact. There is overwhelming evidence that the rate of sea level rise is increasing and will continue this century.

Climate change amounts to a massive failure of the free market. The costs of damages from and adaptation to climate change are not included in the price of carbon-based fuels. Congress continues to allow the market to be unfairly distorted, favoring fossil fuels as the preferred energy choice to the detriment of society.

Economists overwhelmingly agree that putting a steadily rising price on carbon emissions is the simplest method of reducing emissions. Returning 100 percent of the revenue collected equally back to every household as a dividend puts the money back into the hands of the consumer, allowing each and every one of us to make the choice of where we want our money to go.

Do you want to continue to support dirty sources of energy like Brunner Island's coal-fired power plant that pollute our air and will become more expensive as time goes on? Or would you rather keep more and more of your dividend and support clean, carbon-free sources of energy that will become increasingly cheaper, don't pollute our air and water, change our climate and inundate our coastlines with rising seas?

The choice should be a no-brainer.

--Jon Clark is Mid-Atlantic regional coordinator for Citizens' Climate Lobby.

http://www.yorkdispatch.com/opinion/ci_25998555/op-ed-west-antarctic-tipping-point

Lawrence Journal World

6/19/2014

Letter to Editor

Tony Schmidt

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter KS Lawrence

To the editor:

There is a nationwide assault on renewable energy standards. The Climate + Energy Project recently hosted a film screening and panel discussion at Liberty Hall of "Against the Wind," part six of the new Showtime docu-series "Years of Living Dangerously" hosted by America Ferrera.

It highlighted the Kansas Legislature's efforts to abolish renewable energy standards earlier this year championed by Rep. Dennis Hedke, R-Wichita, and Sen. Forrest Knox, R-Altoona. The documentary shows how their efforts came at the urging of a spokesman for the Koch-supported Heartland Institute, and ALEC.

The grand strategy is to roll back standards across the 29 states that have them. Kansas is the newest state with renewable standards and could pave the way for a domino effect. Renewable standards recently barely survived this assault for now as the vote in committee was 10 to 9.

I applaud the 10 Kansas committee members who voted against the repeal and the thousands that support them. We can balance the influence of big oil/gas/coal when they resume their efforts this fall by getting involved in bi partisan clean energy organizations like Citizens Climate Lobby, writing letters, and lobbying all our representatives.

Originally published at: <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2014/jun/19/letter-renewable-energy/>

<http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2014/jun/19/letter-renewable-energy/>

Rappahannock

6/19/2014

Letter to Editor

Bill Estell - Heathsville, VA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter VA Northern Neck

More support for a carbon exercise fee (Title by Editor not CCL writer)

Recent reports on the impact of global warming and subsequent climate change underscore the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A new comprehensive study finds that an excise fee on carbon can reduce those emissions while also adding jobs to the economy -- if the revenues are returned to households.

The study, conducted by Regional Economic Models, Inc., examined application of an excise fee on the carbon-dioxide content of fossil fuels. The fee would start at \$10 per ton, increasing at \$10 per ton each year. Revenue from the fee would be returned to households in equal shares as direct payments. Under this approach, recycling the revenue back into the economy would add 2.2 million jobs over ten years. Improvements in air quality would save 13,000 lives a year. Emissions would decline by 33 percent.

What this study illustrates is that by giving the revenue back to the people, a carbon excise fee will actually stimulate the economy. The big objection to a carbon tax has been that it would kill jobs. That assumption is now shown to be false if the revenues are returned to households and not used for governmental purposes. The REMI study provides detailed annual output data by region and by sector of the economy supporting the conclusions.

For those opposed to more government regulations like those issued last week by EPA, the best recourse is to apply a revenue-neutral carbon excise fee. This is supported by conservatives from George Shultz to Greg Mankiw. With the REMI study showing a carbon fee that returns revenue to households and will add millions of jobs, this is the option everyone can embrace as a real free market solution.

Readers should contact Congressman Wittman and request that he support this conservative alternative to government regulations.

Bill Estell, Burgess

No link to LTE www.rappahannockrecord.net is home page

Boulder Weekly

6/19/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

A note on word choice for “~ carbon tax”

Thank you for Steven Kreimendal’s fine article dealing with the different reactions the public tends to have when hearing the term “climate change” versus the term “global warming.” But it is not too surprising that simple word choices can trigger positive or negative reactions.

For example, the phrase “carbon tax” is typically met with anger about government overreach, or fear about rising energy prices. However, imagine if instead it were called a “carbon stimulus package.” The public, businesses and the unemployed would probably listen to a carbon stimulus proposal, and support it. Whereas if we call it a carbon tax they would reject it without listening to the details.

How can a carbon tax be a stimulus package? Because a study released this week by REMI (Regional Economic Models Inc) indicates that a national carbon tax that is paid by fossil fuel companies and fully rebated to the public via pro rata checks to households would stimulate the economy. It would create more than 2 million jobs within 10 years. To top it off, it would improve our health and stabilize the climate.

Readers should please urge Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet and Rep. Jared Polis to review REMI’s study and support a carbon stimulus package. That way we’ll stimulate the economy while we fight climate change or global warming, or whatever you call it.

Judy Weiss/Brookline, Mass.

<http://npaper-wehaa.com/boulder-weekly/2014/06/19/#?article=2261437>

Review-Independent

6/19/2014

Letter to Editor

Alexandra Amonette, Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WA Tri-cities

This paper is not online. I'll send the PDF if a separate email to Steve Valk.

Here's A Way To Fix Our Climate And Energy Issues

Re: "Quit piling on regulations, there are better options" (6/5/14, p. 4)

In reference to this article, we do need to (1) slash our carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and (2) eliminate the huge subsidies to all forms of energy. In so doing, we'll unleash American ingenuity, level the playing field for the competition between fossil fuels and low-carbon energy fuels, and grow the economy.

Here's how.

We can ask Congress --many of whom are pushing back hard against new EPA regulations to limit CO₂ emissions at power plants --to enact legislation that puts a revenue-neutral tax on CO₂. Conservative economists, such as Greg

Mankiw (economic advisor to presidential candidate Mitt Romney), Art Laffer (economic adviser to President Ronald Reagan), Kevin Hassett (American Enterprise Institute and advisor to presidential candidate John McCain), and former Secretary of State George Schultz (Reagan administration) all support this market-based approach.

"Revenue-neutral" means a fee is collected and returned directly to the taxpayer either as a rebate or reduction of tax.

The Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) proposes a revenue-neutral carbon tax. The tax is collected at the source where the carbon first enters the U.S. economy (oil or gas well, coal mine, or port). 100 percent of the revenues are reimbursed directly to all American households. A border tax adjustment and export rebates protect domestic manufacturers. Not one dime goes to the government.

A just-released study by Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) finds that returning all the revenue to households in equal shares as direct payments in the form of monthly dividend checks would:

- generate up to \$400 billion in carbon tax revenues by 2025
- provide a monthly dividend of \$288 for a family of 4 with two adults in 2025; \$396 in 2035. Annually, this is \$3,456 per family of four (\$1152 per capita””children get a half dividend) in 2025.
- add 2.2 million jobs over 10 years, 2.8 million after 20 years
- increase the gross domestic product (GDP) \$70 to \$85 billion from 2020 on, with a cumulative increase in national GDP due to fee and dividend of \$1.375 trillion by 2035
- save 13,000 American lives a year due to improvements in air quality, with a cumulative 227,000 lives saved over 20 years
- cause CO2 emissions to decline by 33 percent within the next decade and 52 percent by 2035 make low-carbon energy cheaper than fossil fuels within a decade

Under this plan, two-thirds of all households would break even or receive more in their dividend check than they would pay for the increased cost of energy, thereby protecting the poor and middle class.

And, a predictably increasing carbon price will send a clear market signal which will unleash entrepreneurs and investors in the new low-carbon energy economy. It will create the broad incentives to encourage decision-makers at all levels of society to reduce CO2 emissions through conservation, substitution and the innovation that the author of the article urges.

Last month, the National Climate Assessment reported that the impact of global warming is being felt across the nation. We’ve already seen a 15-35 percent decrease in snowpack in the Cascades which threatens our water supplies.

By 2060, water shortages during the spring and summer in the Yakima Valley alone are expected to cost \$66 million a year in crop losses.

CCL volunteers from Washington State are traveling on their own dimes to Washington, D.C., this month to meet with our members of Congress because the need for action on global warming is clear. They’ll present the REMI study: it provides a real solution and they’ll urge Congress to pass a revenue-neutral carbon tax.

This is the “better way” we can all support. Please call your representatives and ask them to enact a revenue-neutral carbon tax now.

Alexandra Amonette,

link n/a PDF will be provided

Sacramento Bee

6/19/2014

Letter to Editor

Harold Ferber, Elk Grove, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Dazed and amazed

Re "Sticker shock is coming at the gas pump due to cap-and-trade program" (Viewpoints, June 19): Many of us stand dazed and amazed at an oil industry representative expressing concern for consumers regarding potential gasoline price increases, in this case due to cap-and-trade.

In his protestation, the writer refers to "so-called polluters." There are no so-called polluters. The fossil fuel industries, including the oil industry, are predominantly responsible for the carbon dioxide emissions causing climate change. Any successful effort to reduce carbon dioxide emissions will involve making fossil fuels more expensive relative to renewable energy. The question is how to lessen the burden on those least able to afford this cost increase.

A carbon tax where all funds are returned to U.S. households means two thirds of the population will successfully avoid this burden. Come on, Big Oil, join us.

-- Harold Feber, Elk Grove

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/19/6497743/dazed-and-amaze.html>

Concord Monitor

6/20/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Letter: Nation needs carbon tax

Capital Beat's discussion of "An energy tax fight" (Monitor, June 15) emphasized that New Hampshire Republicans hammered Sen. Jeanne Shaheen for voting to require future carbon taxes be revenue neutral. How bizarre!

Perhaps the Republicans didn't notice that four Republican, former EPA directors wrote an article last year explaining why they support a carbon tax to deal with climate change. These are the most qualified Republicans to comment on climate change policy, and they support carbon taxation.

Why would New Hampshire Republicans dis the counsel of the best Republican authorities by opposing carbon taxes, and why wouldn't they want to ensure future carbon taxes are revenue neutral? Eventually, Congress will have to respond to climate change.

Does New Hampshire want senators who don't understand basic economics and therefore don't understand why carbon taxes are the best solution to climate change? Or do they want senators who understand climate change, carbon taxation and the benefits of revenue neutrality?

Furthermore, Regional Economic Models Inc. just released a study of a revenue-neutral carbon tax that rebates all tax proceeds to households. REMI found a rebated carbon tax would cut emissions, increase jobs by 2.1 million within 10 years, shield consumers from price increases and grow the economy.

Please encourage senate candidates to review REMI's study. True leaders will explain to constituents why America needs a carbon tax to be paid by fossil fuel companies and rebated to the public. Those who deny climate change, dis carbon taxes or fail to understand revenue neutrality's economic benefits are not cut out to be leaders.

JUDY WEISS, Brookline, Mass.

<http://mobile.concordmonitor.com/opinion/12452797-108/letter-nation-needs-carbon-tax>

Wicked Local Shrewsbury

6/20/2014

Op-Ed

Joel Golden

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Needham guest column: Tell our politicians to fight climate change

Like many others in Needham I try to be environmentally responsible. I have energy efficient lights and appliances; I walk when I can instead of driving; I drive a hybrid sedan. I even had solar panels installed recently on my roof. I applaud the actions of others who have the same concerns and the resounding success of Solarize Needham to get many homeowners in town to "go solar."

Yet the recent succession of expert reports about the lack of progress against global warming thoroughly alarms me. Severe droughts, wildfires and hurricanes are all occurring on our watch with increasing frequency, and scientists tell us that the worst is yet to come for our children and grandchildren. These reports make clear that we can no longer delay dealing with the problem if we want to avoid its most devastating consequences.

But there is also good news: achievable solutions are available at a reasonable cost, but only if we act now to implement them. Unfortunately individual actions on this front are no match for the worldwide scope of the problem. Government, however, can step in and play a decisive role. President Barack Obama has taken a major step forward with the announcement of carbon pollution standards for power plants. But more needs to be done if we are to create the will in Congress to pass laws that will help stabilize the climate. It will require organized action by concerned individuals in cities and towns across the country.

This is why I joined Citizens Climate Lobby. CCL is a nonpartisan nationwide (and international) all-volunteer organization that lobbies Congress for effective, efficient, equitable, market-based climate legislation. Its advisory board includes George Schultz, economist and secretary of state for Ronald Reagan, and James Hansen, former chief climate scientist for NASA. It seeks bipartisan support for a tax on carbon that would be imposed on fossil fuels and would trigger more demand for and investment in clean energy. The proceeds from the tax could be returned to households to shield them from the impact of rising gasoline and electricity prices. The tax has broad support from experts across the ideological spectrum including Schultz and Greg Mankiw of Harvard, chairman of George W. Bush's Council of Economic Advisors.

All those wishing to make their voices heard should check out CCL's website and then consider joining one of its local chapters. There are several in the Greater Boston Area. On June 22-24, more than a dozen members from Massachusetts will attend CCL's annual conference in Washington, D.C. On June 24, we will meet with Senators Warren, Markey, and all members of the state's delegation in the House of Representatives and urge them to find cosponsors of bipartisan legislation.

Readers can also take one small step on Tuesday morning June 24. They can call their Congressman or Congresswoman, as well as Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey, and ask them to support CCL's proposals by reaching out to New Hampshire Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Kelly Ayotte, and Maine Senators Angus King and Susan Collins. Our states are in this together and all six senators support climate legislation.

We have the tools available to heal our precious planet. Working together we can overcome the resistance to putting them to use.

<http://needham.wickedlocal.com/article/20140620/NEWS/140629815>

Orange County Register

6/20/2014

Letter to Editor

Mark Tabbert

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Orange County

MCCARTHY NOT IN SYNC WITH GLOBAL WARMING

The newly elected House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy is not equal to the challenge of House leadership. McCarthy's views are not in line with mainstream Americans when it comes to global warming ["McCarthy good fit for majority leader," Opinion, June 18].

McCarthy voted yes on barring the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating greenhouse gases. He voted no on enforcing limits on CO2 pollution.

A national opinion survey conducted in April found that Americans support setting strict limits on carbon dioxide emissions by nearly two to one.

Among those who deny climate science and reject solutions are the Tea Party members, which hardly qualifies as mainstream.

Democrats, independents and non-Tea Party Republicans understand global warming is a problem and want the government to act. American youth, the group most at risk, favors action by nearly 85 percent.

Mark Tabbert

Newport Beach

<http://epaper.ocregister.com/Olive/ODE/OrangeCountyRegister/>

Salt Lake Tribune

6/20/2014

Letter to Editor

David Folland, Sandy

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter UT Salt Lake City

Letter: Tell Congress you want a carbon tax

While reducing your own carbon footprint, have you ever had an itchy feeling that you should do more to address global warming? On Monday June 23 you will have an opportunity to scratch that itch and make a small but significant contribution to a solution. That is the day before eight Utah Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) volunteers will visit every Utah member of Congress or their aide.

As proposed in the recent op-ed ("Carbon tax the Best Answer to Climate Change," June 16), we will advocate for a revenue-neutral carbon tax. The eight Utahns will join over 600 other CCL volunteers from around the country.

In less than 10 minutes, you can be a political activist. All you have to do is call the offices of Sens. Hatch and Lee and your Representative. Ask the receptionist to relay the message that you are concerned about global warming and that you want them to address the issue in Congress. Find your representative by entering your ZIP code at www.house.gov. You can Google your member of Congress to find their phone number, or call the U.S. Capitol Switchboard (202-224-3121).

David Folland, M.D.

Sandy

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/58089123-82/tax-carbon-congress-june.html.csp>

Echo Press

6/20/2014

Letter to Editor

Susanne Engstrom

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MN Alexandria

Global Warming could be Economic Opportunity

To the editor:

If you don't like regulations, you will like this:

President Obama has announced the new EPA regulations to reduce emissions at U.S. power plants. If some people are opposed to more government regulations, a revenue-neutral carbon tax provides a market-based alternative to regulation.

Carbon tax detractors say that it would kill jobs, but REMI studies (see below) show that a carbon tax, done the right way, will actually create jobs, and in 10 years, a carbon tax that increases \$10 per ton of CO₂ a year will reduce emissions by 33 percent.

The right way to do a carbon tax is to return all revenue to households. This would generate tremendous economic growth when the revenue reaches the public. Global warming can be looked at as an economic opportunity because of the jobs created when the public gains buying power because of their increased revenue.

The recent National Climate Assessment (NCA) on the impact of climate change in the U.S. leaves no doubt that something must be done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To see the effect on Minnesota, go to <http://www.climate-science-watch.org/2014/05/13/2014-national-climate-assessment>...

Since 1980, REMI (Regional Economic Models, Inc.) has conducted economic impact studies for an impressive list of clients, including The Atlanta Regional Commission, Ernst and Young, the California Department of Finance, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), to name just a few.

Link n/a

Manistee News Advocate

6/20/2014

Letter to Editor

Cathye Williams, Thompsonville

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MI Northern Michigan

Manistee News Advocate

What are you doing on June 23rd? Consider taking a few minutes on Monday on behalf of a better future for our children. On Tuesday, June 24th, 14 residents of Northwest Michigan will be in Washington, DC, meeting with Senators Levin and Stabenow and Representative Benishek, asking them to support federal legislation to address global warming. These folks are joining over 600 fellow citizen volunteers in the Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), a non-partisan, grassroots organization working to create political will for a livable world. On this 5th Annual Lobby Day of the CCL, 475 meetings with congressional offices are scheduled. This includes an unprecedented number of face-to-face meetings with members in a single day on a single issue.

Add your voice to theirs by calling Stabenow (202-224-4822), Levin (202-224-6221), and Benishek (202-225-4735) on June 23rd to request serious Congressional action on climate change. By calling the day before CCL volunteers meet with Congress you will focus attention on the issue and improve chances for significant breakthroughs, especially with members who do not yet feel the urgency of addressing global warming.

Alice Walker said, "The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any". Exercise your power. Send a clear message that you care about a stable planet. A prosperous American future depends on it.

Cathye Williams

Thompsonville, MI

<http://news.pioneergroup.com/manisteenews/?s=cathye+williams>

Sacramento Bee

6/20/2014

Letter to Editor

Christine Bailey, Gold River, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Money in American pocketbooks with carbon dividend

Re "Sticker shock is coming at the gas pump due to cap-and-trade program" (Viewpoints, June 19) The Bee does a good job of reporting on climate change, but it did not include an important recent report by the highly respected, nonpartisan Regional Economic Modeling, Inc.

On June 16, REMI released their nationwide study on the impact of a carbon fee at the source if 100 percent of the revenue was given directly back to Americans via a dividend check. This is a game-changer for the economic debate on climate change. It creates jobs, grows the economy, saves lives and makes Americans richer.

REMI's report shows that a carbon fee with this citizen dividend would create 2.1 million net new jobs in the first 10 years, reduce CO2 emissions by 33 percent after 10 years and reduce CO2 emissions by 52 percent after 20 years. Plus, it would prevent 13,000 premature deaths in first 10 years. This market-based approach could be embraced by conservatives and liberals.

-- Christine Bailey, Gold River

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/20/6499764/money-in-american-pocketbooks.html>

Metrowest Daily News

6/21/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Weiss: Make a hullabaloo about climate

Re: "'Massachusetts takes the lead' (June 14)

Great editorial! It does feel good to live in a state that leads on important issues. However there is one fine point requiring emphasis. On most important issues, it is enough to just take care of ourselves and when others get there, they'll get there.

But global warming is different. Massachusetts cannot protect its residents from global warming's risks unless all 50 states and the rest of the world join us. As a result, it is incumbent upon our entire Congressional delegation (Sens. Warren and Markey, and Reps. Neal, McGovern, Tsongas, Kennedy, Clark, Tierney, Capuano, Lynch, and Keating) to speak out daily about global warming and to yell about Congressional policy options sorely needed to supplement EPA regulatory efforts.

What should they clamor about? Let them read the June 9th report released by Regional Economic Models Inc that found a revenue-neutral carbon tax would cut emissions, boost the economy and create 2 million jobs within 10 years. Also, a carbon tax can be charged on imports from countries not curtailing emissions, so other major countries will be motivated to enact similar legislation. The more our Members of Congress speak about REMI's study and the efficacy of a carbon tax rebated to households, the more they will drown out objections to legislation because of alleged threats posed to the economy.

By creating a hullabaloo over global warming and carbon tax legislation, our delegation will protect other Congressional candidates in other states from dark money, fossil fuel lobbies and climate change misinformation campaigns.

They will also be modeling for their constituents how to create the political will to make democracy work for us.

JUDY WEISS, Brookline

<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/article/20140621/OPINION/140629298/11609/OPINION>

Santa Cruz Sentinel

6/21/2014

Op-Ed

Jack Nelson, Santa Cruz, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Santa Cruz

Jack Nelson: We must act now to lessen climate-change problems

Special to the Sentinel

Why on Earth would five county residents travel this weekend to Washington, D.C., to attend a national conference of the Citizens Climate Lobby, then make rounds of meetings with members of Congress, on proposed carbon fee-and-dividend legislation that has little prospect of passing this year?

The first part of the answer is, well, because we are on Earth. It's our only home, the one that allows us to breathe, eat, drink water, sometimes live amicably, and pursue our dreams. Climate scientists, working together globally in the most extraordinary collaborative scientific research ever undertaken, advise us that on the present path of carbon emissions, civilization is with high certainty headed for a nasty climate change future. Further, it's a bit late to prevent serious climate-related troubles, and there is some risk of catastrophic abrupt climate change any time, but the damage can be lessened the sooner we act on the scale needed.

The proposed legislation may seem impossible, until it becomes law. Climate denialists in Congress will not be able to create legislation that can change the laws of physics! Harsher evidence of the need for action will arrive, and minds must change, perhaps even among those now beholden to the fossil fuel industry.

So what does the Citizens Climate Lobby propose? National carbon fee-and-dividend would put a price on carbon emissions, taxed at the point it enters the economy, such as the mine or wellhead. The fee would start out mild, at \$15 per ton of CO₂, and increase annually. The revenue would be "dividend" back to the American people, equally, making it revenue-neutral.

We can see similar legislation already working to good effect north of us, in the Canadian province of British Columbia. The revenue-neutral, incremental carbon tax implemented there in 2008 is backed by a majority, who re-elected the politicians who signed off on it. I'm told folks like getting their dividend checks! Businesses like their offsetting tax cuts. Besides economic benefits, the tax has helped change the culture of energy use. What are we waiting for?

Jack Nelson is a member of the county chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby, and is a retired land use planner. Visit www.citizensclimatelobby.org.

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/opinion/ci_26004914/jack-nelson-we-must-act-now-lesser-climate

Midland Daily News

6/21/2014

Letter to Editor

James W. Crissman, Midland, MI

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MI Midland

To the Editor:

Five minutes of your time on Monday, June 23rd, could go a long way toward creating a better world for your children and grandchildren. The next day, on June 24th, four residents of Michigan's 4th Congressional District, including myself, will be in Washington, DC, meeting with Senators Carl Levin and Debbie Stabenow and Representative Dave Camp and asking them to support federal legislation to address global warming. We will be a small part of a team of over 600 members of Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) from all over America. We are a non-partisan, grassroots organization working to create the political will for a livable world. This will be CCL's 5th Annual Lobby Day, and volunteers have scheduled 475 meetings with congressional offices. Our efforts will leave a mark.

Please add your voice to ours, by calling Stabenow, Levin, and Camp on June 23rd and expressing your desire for serious Congressional action on climate change. Calling the day before CCL volunteers meet with Congress will focus attention on the issue and improve chances of significant breakthroughs, especially with congress members who have been reluctant to acknowledge the urgency of addressing global warming.

Abraham Lincoln said, "With public opinion there's nothing I cannot do, and without public opinion there's nothing I can get done." Please help give our politicians the strength to act.

James W. Crissman

Midland Group Leader, Citizens' Climate Lobby

Link n/a

Deseret News

6/21/2014

Letter to Editor

Lynn Goldfarb, Lancaster, PA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Lancaster

The escalating tax makes fossil fuels increasingly expensive, but we can buy clean energy with our carbon tax money.

COST OF CARBON

Thanks for the excellent article citing the new REMI economic study showing that a revenue-neutral or fee-dividend carbon tax would benefit rather than hurt our economy ("An economic benefit of a fee-and-dividend carbon tax," June 11). The escalating tax makes fossil fuels increasingly expensive, but we can buy clean energy with our carbon tax money.

The only injured parties are the fossil-fuel corporations whose products have cost over \$1 trillion in climate change disasters, according to desmogblog.com. The International Energy Agency estimates just two more years of delay in making major cuts in CO2 will cost \$4 trillion. And the IPCC reports warn not only of economic collapse but "societal collapse" if we don't make aggressive emissions changes.

Now we clearly have a win-win solution: a better economy and future global warming catastrophe averted. The only thing we lack is the political will to get this done.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865605567/Letter-Cost-of-carbon.html?pg=all>

Tri-City Herald

6/22/2014

Letter to Editor

Richard Badalamente

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WA Tri-cities

Fast Focus: 'What questions do you have for the 4th District candidates?' Protecting ag from climate change

Human-caused climate change is threatening agricultural production across the globe. How would you address the growing threat of climate change to Eastern Washington's \$49 billion food and agriculture industry?

-- Richard Badalamente, Kennewick

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/06/22/3029488/fast-focus-what-questions-do-you.html>

Citizen Times

6/22/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Studies backing climate mitigation mean more jobs

Thanks for publishing the recent letter “Climate change could bring jobs to Asheville” (AC-T, June 17) asserting that climate change mitigation would bring jobs via new alternative energy enterprises. Two new studies support that.

The first study by Mark Jacobson of Stanford analyzes the resources and geography of each individual state and suggests how each state could provide its energy needs by 2050 using only emissions-free energy. His projected energy mix for North Carolina would feature 50 percent offshore wind energy, about 40 percent various types of solar energy projects with the balance coming from hydro, tidal turbines, wave energy and geothermal. He estimates roughly 142,000 full-time, permanent construction jobs and another 90,000 jobs in operations.

A second study by REMI (Regional Economic Models Inc) analyzes a revenue-neutral carbon tax that is fully rebated to the public via monthly checks to households. REMI concludes such a tax would lower emissions and create 2 million jobs nationwide within 10 years.

Mostly both these studies consider policy plans that would encourage American problem-solving creativity to find clever new ways to provide our energy needs without polluting our air and water and destabilizing our climate.

Readers should please urge Rep. Patrick McHenry to review the work of Mark Jacobson and REMI and propose job creating, problem-solving solutions to our climate change-energy quandary.

<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/06/22/studies-backing-climate-mitigation-mean-jobs/11136709/>

Tri-City Herald

6/22/2014

Letter to Editor

Alexandra Amonette

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WA Tri-cities

Fast Focus: 'What questions do you have for the 4th District candidates?' Options for reducing fossil fuels

Recent reports (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and National Climate Assessment) on the impacts of global warming underscore the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or face serious consequences in the coming century. Such a transition necessarily requires a decrease in the use of fossil fuels.

While a majority of Americans agree we need to address global warming, the devil is in the details.

Options proposed are: (1) EPA regulations as recently proposed by the Obama administration, with costs to be borne by the consumer; (2) subsidies of low-carbon energy technologies such as wind, solar, and nuclear, with costs borne by the taxpayer; (3) cap-and-trade programs with costs to be borne by the consumer and proceeds flowing to lawyers, market participants, and consultants; (4) institution of a carbon tax with proceeds going to the government general fund; and (5) institution of a carbon tax with proceeds returned directly to the economy (either a dividend to households or a cut in income and business taxes).

Assuming that "do nothing" is not an option, which of these would the candidate favor?

-- Alexandra Amonette, Richland

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/06/22/3029464/fast-focus-what-questions-do-you.html>

Tri-City Herald

6/22/2014

Letter to Editor

Charles Long, Tri-Cities, WA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WA Tri-cities

Fast Focus: 'What questions do you have for the 4th District candidates?' Prioritizing water use

Regional climate models predict decreasing snow pack in the Pacific Northwest as a result of global warming. Thus, there's the likelihood for decreased runoff water availability in late summer and fall for irrigation, hydropower, and adequate river levels and flow for fish. Given that priorities would need to be set for limited water resources, how would you prioritize these competing needs? In other words, with not enough water to adequately serve all three, which would you support as the most important to be adequately supplied for Washington state?

-- Dr. Charles N. Long, Kennewick

Read more here: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/06/22/3029514/fast-focus-what-questions-do-you.html#storylink=cpy>

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/06/22/3029514/fast-focus-what-questions-do-you.html>

The Bend Bulletin

6/22/2014

Letter to Editor

Jeannine Florance

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter OR Bend

Support carbon tax

Bend's recent smoke-filled skies painfully reminded me of burning eyes and a tight chest while living in Los Angeles during the '60s. Fine particles of air pollution penetrate deep into our lungs.

Wildfires compound the air pollution most commonly created by power plants, motor vehicle exhaust and wood burning. As recently shown in the National Climate Assessment, the Northwest is likely in for a summer of increasing wildfires precipitated by drought and other extreme weather events.

On June 24, the nonpartisan group Citizens' Climate Lobby (www.citizensclimatelobby.org) will have over 600 volunteer members, including one from the Bend and Southern Oregon chapters, in Washington D.C. They will meet with Oregon representatives and other members of Congress to encourage support for a revenue-neutral carbon tax (on oil, gas and coal extraction) and a dividend policy.

A just-released study, conducted by Regional Economic Models Inc. found that implementing this policy would decrease carbon emissions by over 33 percent by 2035 and would, through improved air quality, save 13,000 lives a year. In addition, the study found that returning the tax revenue to households in equal shares as direct payments would help recycle revenue back into the economy and add 2.2 million jobs over 10 years. Review the report details at <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/REMI-carbon-tax-report-62141.pdf>.

We need to create the political will. I urge you to call your federal representatives saying you are concerned about climate change and want them to consider legislation to help create a stable climate.

Jeannine Florance

Bend

Link n/a

The Tribune

6/22/2014

Letter to Editor

Bob Wolf, San Luis Obispo

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA San Luis Obispo

Climate change is here

Well, it's happened even earlier than I thought it would. According to the article published June 18, (To steer clear of the waves, Hwy. 1 could get new route), Caltrans plans to move nearly three miles of Highway 1 500 feet inland to protect it from rising sea levels and coastal erosion.

In one spot, waves break over barriers during periods of high swells, saturating the highway and creating traffic hazards. This project, planned since 2001, is expected to cost \$57 million.

The rise in sea levels from climate change is only 8 inches now. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, scientists have greater than 90 percent confidence that global mean sea levels will rise as much as 6.6 feet by 2100 due to ocean warming, ice sheet loss and glacial melting. The only way to stop the progression is by reducing the growing levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that are causing global warming.

Climate change is here, and we are already seeing the costly effects along our coast. There is still time to slow the inevitable consequences if we act quickly. One effective tactic to combating rising sea levels would be to lower CO2 emissions through a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend program as promoted by Citizens' Climate Lobby.

Bob Wolf San Luis Obispo

Not Available

Aspen Daily News

6/23/2014

Letter to Editor

Lucy Kessler, Carbondale, CO

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CO Roaring Fork Valley

Letter: Lobbying for climate-change solutions

In Sunday's New York Times, Henry Paulson Jr. called for a national carbon tax to address out-of-control climate change. Far from being a radical idea, this approach takes a page straight out of basic economic theory in which things that are harmful to society are taxed.

Citizens Climate Lobby, a grassroots organization with over 300 chapters nationwide, has Americans lobbying their representatives across the country for exactly what Paulson has proposed. The Roaring Fork Valley Citizens Climate Lobby chapter is in Washington, D.C., this week at the Citizens Climate Lobby national conference and has meetings scheduled with Sens. Mark Udall, Michael Bennet and Rep. Scott Tipton's offices.

Citizens Climate Lobby advocates for a "carbon tax and dividend," which means putting a price on carbon and then returning the revenue back to the American people. Rather than growing government, this policy is revenue-neutral. Because of this, the policy can be supported across the aisle. Yes a carbon tax will affect the economy, but so will unchecked climate change. The longer we wait to address climate change the more expensive it will be. The most effective and best chance at a bipartisan solution is a carbon tax and dividend.

Lucy Kessler

Carbondale

<http://www.aspentimes.com/opinion/letterstotheeditor/11944322-113/climate-carbon-citizens-lobby>

Petoskey News-Review

6/23/2014

Letter to Editor

Sharyn Hansen

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MI Petoskey

Five minutes of your time

Editor:

Five minutes of your time would go a long way toward creating a better world for you, your children, and your grandchildren.

On Tuesday, June 24, members of our community will be in Washington, D.C., meeting with Senators Levin and Stabenow and Representative Benishek asking them to support federal legislation to address global warming. These citizens are part of a 600+ lobbying team from Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), a non-partisan, grassroots organization working to create the political will for a livable world. This will be CCL's fifth annual Lobby Day and volunteers have scheduled 475 meetings with congressional offices! Their effort will leave a mark.

Please add your voice to theirs by calling Stabenow, Levin, and Benishek on June 23 expressing your desire for serious congressional action on climate change. Calling the day before CCL volunteers meet with Congress will focus attention on the issue and improve chances of significant breakthroughs, especially with members of Congress who have been reluctant to acknowledge the urgency of addressing global warming.

Abraham Lincoln said, "With public opinion there's nothing I cannot do, and without public opinion there's nothing I can get done."

Sharyn Hansen

Petoskey

http://www.petoskeynews.com/news/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter---five-minutes-of-your-time/article_9cf77601-2e9e-50bb-8c6f-39f0c9aabbcf.html

The Daily Gazette

6/23/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Citizens Climate Lobby fighting climate change

Letters to the editor

Citizens Climate Lobby fighting climate change

Mr. Thomas Mihran's June 15 online letter denying anthropogenic global warming expressed anger about academic arrogance. Academics don't judge articles based on writers' education. Education levels aren't indicators of whether a person can offer valuable ideas. However, non-academics (like academics) must show discernment about information they cite and must double-check sources. Mr. Mihran cited old information long disproven.

How can non-academics add constructive ideas to society's global warming discussion? Join a group with more than 300 chapters nationwide that will soon have a chapter in every congressional district. Meet locals who knew nothing about global warming a year ago, but are learning together via monthly meetings, weekly phone-in discussions, lectures, book clubs, videos and recommended readings.

Citizens' Climate Lobby [CCL] has 6,000 members. Within a year, we'll have 15,000 members and 40,000 in two years. We lobby Congress for a carbon tax to be paid by fossil fuel companies and rebated to households. Regional Economic Models Inc. analyzed our carbon tax proposal, finding it will reduce emissions, energize the economy, and create 2 million jobs within 10 years.

Let Rep. Bill Owens know we want him to support carbon tax and rebate legislation. Tell him 40,000 CCLers will have his back.

Judy Weiss

Brookline, Mass.

http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2014/jun/23/0623_online/

The Daily Californian

6/23/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss (Brookline)

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Establish carbon tax on fossil fuels

Sophie Mattson wrote about a Berkeley proposal to require climate change warning labels on gas pumps. It reminded me of a 1983 New York City law requiring establishments selling alcohol to post signs warning pregnant women that drinking alcohol while pregnant can cause birth defects. Alcohol industries worried the signs would hurt sales. Some organizations objected the signs weren't required on every bottle, and feminist organizations complained the law discriminated against women. Similarly, today, oil and gas organizations worry about sales and why signs will only be required at gas stations but not also on other sources of greenhouse gas emissions, such as home stoves and furnaces.

Eventually, the alcohol industry stopped fighting congressional efforts to put labels on every bottle because they saw that labels limited their liability for birth defects. Also, alcohol warning signs only limit drinking for women of childbearing age --and only when they are pregnant. It isn't the end of drinking by women, nor does it impact men's drinking. The alcohol industry was bound to cave. Who would want to argue against educating the public about fetal alcohol syndrome?

But the fossil fuel industry is facing an eventual phase-out of most products. Demand will remain for small amounts of petroleum products used in manufacturing, but most fossil fuels will remain in the ground.

No wonder they have waged a climate change misinformation campaign for decades. Importantly, the main message of the nozzle signs isn't that fossil fuels are evil. The message is a reminder that our actions contribute to climate change.

We could go through an arduous process of putting climate change signs on everything --airplane tickets, home bills for oil and gas, or utility bills for electricity from power plants burning coal, oil or gas --in order to educate the public. But there is a simpler way to teach. Put a carbon tax on fossil fuels. The tax will increase costs of activities or products harmful to the climate. Consumers will learn from relative prices how to substitute fuels, foods or methods of transportation that are cheaper and therefore less polluting.

Low- and middle-income families can be shielded from price increases through rebating the tax to households. Rebate the tax? The point of the tax is not to be a hardship, it is to be a signal helping decisions. Rebating the tax boosts the economy and creates jobs.

Please ask Rep. Barbara Lee to review a recent Regional Economic Models Inc. study of the effects of a rebated carbon tax.

Rabbi Judy Weiss is a volunteer member of Citizens' Climate Lobby.

<http://www.dailycal.org/2014/06/23/establish-carbon-tax-fossil-fuels/>

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

6/23/2014

Op-Ed

Shelley Buonaiuto

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter AR Fayetteville

Guest writer

Our wake-up call

Still hope to protect environment

SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

We warmly embrace the children born into our community. These beautiful new beings regard us with a pure intelligence, and our hearts fill with wonder and love. Like the good fairies in Sleeping Beauty, we want to give them every blessing within our power: happiness, health, prosperity, long life.

Fairy stories symbolize aspects of our inner psychology. The tale of Sleeping Beauty can also express the past 100 years of our unconsciousness to the danger of thinking we can separate ourselves from nature.

Let's call the rejected fairy, the one who laid the curse of 100 years of sleep on the new baby Aurora "The environment abused for profit." We drill for oil, pipe it mixed with toxic chemicals across precious watersheds and transport it through our neighborhoods. Every process has had and threatens disastrous breaks and spills. Burning fossil fuels causes thousands of deaths from toxic particulates as well as contributes to climate change, while the price of oil neglects to reflect this damage to our health and environment.

It's time to wake up and most of us now recognize that climate change is human-caused. But waking up from a nightmare is easier than waking up into one, and we may need more than a strong cup of coffee to take responsibility for changing the way of life to which we've grown accustomed.

There has to be hope that we can change course and undo the damage that's been done. In the fairy tale, after the angry fairy's curse, one fairy remained to offer her blessing. She wasn't able to stop the effects of the curse, but she could mitigate it.

This last blessing is the ability to wake up and the courage and intelligence to make the necessary changes in our lifestyles. We are the prince we've been waiting for and we now have the tools to cut through the brambles of bureaucracy and inertia. We have used the scientific tools of measurement of changes of temperatures and carbon accumulation over millions of years. Over 97 percent of climate scientists are convinced that global warming is a certainty. We are now ready to use other tools, such as the EPA, to address the problem.

The Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan calls for states to design their own State Implementation Plans (SIP) to limit CO₂ emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired plants to 30 percent less than 2005 levels. States have a choice whether to do it through energy efficiency, renewable energy or market mechanisms such as cap and trade or a carbon fee and dividend.

I believe a carbon fee and dividend (CFD) is the most effective tool. A new study done by Regional Economic Models Inc. has found that, with a CFD that starts at \$10 per ton of CO₂ and increases by \$10 per ton per year, CO₂ emissions decline, national employment increases, thousands of lives are saved annually and there is an increase in gross domestic product.

The price goes up at the pump, just as it would with regulations or cap and trade, but 100 percent of the revenue collected is returned to the consumer, which protects lower-income families and spurs our economy. Two-thirds of all households would break even or receive more in their dividend checks than they would pay in higher prices due to the fee and dividend.

With the costs of natural disasters quadrupling in the last three decades, the real economic costs are in not addressing climate change. We can pay now, or pay a lot more later.

There is a great deal of hope if we act now. A predictably increasing carbon price will attract investors to the new clean-energy economy which will create jobs and spur renewable technological developments. Many international corporations are writing a carbon tax into their business plans.

New solar and wind technologies are proving capable of providing our energy needs and are becoming more affordable. Making our homes energy-efficient saves money and creates jobs. New electric vehicles can be charged by solar electricity and their batteries used for storage. We are redesigning our cities to be more environmentally and economically sustainable.

After 100 years, Sleeping Beauty awoke. We can too. We are already stirring. The blessing we can offer our children is to use the tools available to us to wean ourselves from fossil fuels, to save lives, create jobs, improve health, prevent environmental disaster, and, very importantly, renew our relationship with this rejected fairy, Nature.

We can wake not to a nightmare, but to awe of the beauty of the world, to wonder at the incomprehensible delicacy of the interdependence of this astounding diversity of species of

animals and plants upon which our lives depend. The kiss from the prince is the connection of our souls with our living planet.

-- Shelley Buonaiuto is chair of the Fayetteville Citizens' Climate Lobby.

<http://epaper.ardemgaz.com/Default/Skins/ArkDaily/Client.asp?Skin=ArkDaily&Daily=ArDemocrat&GZ=T&AppName=1>

Concord Monitor

6/23/2014

Letter to Editor

Devone Tucker, Brockton

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Letter: Climate change is bigger risk

I couldn't help noting that V. K. Mathur never actually used the phrases "global warming" or "climate change" in his article condemning renewable energy mandates. I wonder why that is.

I also couldn't help wondering what Mathur makes of the concept of a revenue-neutral carbon fee to transition away from dirty energy sources such as coal toward cleaner forms of power such as wind and solar. Would he consider that idea risky? Riskier than climate change itself?

DEVONE R. TUCKER

Brockton, Mass.

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/opinion/12488904-95/letter-climate-change-is-bigger-risk>

Deseret News

6/23/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

REMI and carbon

Published: Monday, June 23 2014

A report by Regional Economic Models, Inc. estimates that a gradually increasing, rebated carbon tax would create approximately 2.1 million jobs. This is in stark contrast to press releases from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce presenting dire warnings of EPA regulations killing tens of thousands of jobs. Moreover, REMI has a long-standing, top-notch reputation for doing reliable economic studies for prestigious public and private-sector clients. If Congress really cares about job creation and the health and well-being of Americans, it should read REMI's report closely and enact this type of carbon tax to obviate the need for the EPA's proposed regulations.

Judy Weiss

Brookline, Massachusetts

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865605617/REMI-and-carbon.html>

Petoskey News-Review

6/23/2014

Letter to Editor

Sharyn Hansen, Petoskey

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MI Petoskey

Five minutes of your time

Editor:

Five minutes of your time would go a long way toward creating a better world for you, your children, and your grandchildren.

On Tuesday, June 24, members of our community will be in Washington, D.C., meeting with Senators Levin and Stabenow and Representative Benishek asking them to support federal legislation to address global warming. These citizens are part of a 600+ lobbying team from Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL), a non-partisan, grassroots organization working to create the political will for a livable world. This will be CCL's fifth annual Lobby Day and volunteers have scheduled 475 meetings with congressional offices! Their effort will leave a mark.

Please add your voice to theirs by calling Stabenow, Levin, and Benishek on June 23 expressing your desire for serious congressional action on climate change. Calling the day before CCL volunteers meet with Congress will focus attention on the issue and improve chances of significant breakthroughs, especially with members of Congress who have been reluctant to acknowledge the urgency of addressing global warming.

Abraham Lincoln said, "With public opinion there's nothing I cannot do, and without public opinion there's nothing I can get done."

Sharyn Hansen

Petoskey

http://www.petoskeynews.com/news/opinion/letters_to_editor/letter---five-minutes-of-your-time/article_9cf77601-2e9e-50bb-8c6f-39f0c9aabbcf.html

Providence Journal

6/24/2014

Op-Ed

Edward Dettmann, Kingston, RI

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter RI Providence

Edward Dettmann: Carbon fees would benefit national and R.I. economies

By Edward Dettmann

Those who call for effective action to address climate change are often met with arguments that such actions would damage the economy. This economic argument against a carbon fee is based on faulty assumptions that can be disproved by solid research, including a new study released on June 9 by Regional Economic Models (REMI) and Synapse Energy Economics. Their report shows that a revenue-neutral carbon fee would have large economic benefits and would greatly reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

The report, "The Economic, Climate, Fiscal, Power and Demographic Impact of a National Fee-and-Dividend Carbon Tax," summarizes the national and regional effects of a fee on carbon that begins in 2016 at \$10 per metric ton of carbon emitted, and increases yearly by \$10 per ton for a period of 20 years. The study assumes that all fees collected are returned to families, making it revenue-neutral. This fee would be assessed at the mine or wellhead for fossil fuels, based on their carbon content. It also includes a border adjustment on imports to protect the competitiveness of American firms.

The study includes effects in all sectors of the economy. It finds that nationwide over 10 years (2016-2025), 2.1 million more jobs are created than under baseline conditions (with no carbon fee), carbon dioxide emissions are reduced by one-third relative to baseline, and 13,000 premature deaths are averted from improvements in air quality because of reductions in nitrogen and sulfur oxides associated with carbon dioxide emissions. By 2035, these figures become 2.8 million jobs created, 53 percent less CO₂ emitted, and 14,000 premature deaths saved relative to baseline. The monthly family dividend in 2035 for a family of two adults and two dependent children would be approximately \$400.

For New England, the forecasts for 2035 are that the gross regional product would be 0.4 percent higher than for the "business as usual" baseline scenario, the increase in employment 120,000 jobs, and per capita real disposable income \$1,600 above baseline. Compared with most other regions of the United States, New England has already made progress in emissions reduction and

is ready for the changes now; we can expect an economic benefit, and we help avoid major climate impacts in return.

Economists widely agree that using a carbon fee to put a price on carbon is the most efficient way to accomplish reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Coupling this with a rebate to consumers insulates them from any price increases caused by the fees on fuels, and recycles the money back into the economy through increased consumer spending.

An interesting case study is a somewhat differently structured carbon tax and tax shift to reduce income taxes, in place since 2008 in British Columbia. It was judged a major success by a five-year review. Per capita fuel use decreased by 18.8 percent relative to the rest of Canada, and the policy enabled the province to have the lowest income taxes in Canada in 2012.

REMI has been doing regional economic analyses since 1980 for a wide range of clients including local, state, regional and federal government agencies, as well as universities. Synapse Energy Economics is a research and consulting firm that specializes in energy, economic and environmental topics. Their clients include many local, state, regional and federal government agencies as well as nongovernmental organizations. The models they used in this study have been well tested.

The main take-away from this study is that there is no economic argument against carbon fees and dividends. They would create jobs, grow the economy, save lives and make Americans richer. It would do this while also putting us on the right track to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. It would work nationally, and it would work for New England.

Edward Dettmann, of Kingston, is a physicist who has researched near-coastal systems for 28 years. He is a member of the Rhode Island chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby.

<http://www.providencejournal.com/opinion/commentary/20140624-edward-dettmann-carbon-fees-would-benefit-national-and-r.i.-economies.ece>

Las Cruces Sun-News

6/24/2014

Op-Ed

Lynn Goldfarb, Lancaster,PA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Lancaster

We need to listen to scientists on issue of climate change

By Lynn Goldfarb

In the June 19 "Sound Off" climate scientists are referred to as "global warming fools." I take this personally because both my daughter and her husband are climate scientists who work with IPCC scientists and the National Academies of Sciences internationally.

The myth that climate scientists predicted global cooling back in the '70s was created to discredit the field of climate science. It is false. There is a billion-dollar climate denial operation in this country run by the fossil fuel corporations that fabricates and disseminates lies, distortions and misinformation to keep the public confused and apathetic about climate change so their profits keep rolling in. It works hard to create the illusion that climate scientists are fools or charlatans or that there is a real debate about man-made global warming in the scientific community. It is directly modeled on big tobacco's denial that smoking causes lung cancer, even using one of the tobacco industry's old PR firms, Heartland, and two of their old "scientists," who are deniers for hire. (Scientific American, "Dark Money")

The claim of scientists predicting global cooling in the 1970s is based on two '70s articles, one in TIME and one in Newsweek, not peer-reviewed scientific papers. This was when the ozone hole was a real concern, and indeed, had aerosol levels increased 6 to 8 fold, it could have triggered an ice age. But we listened to the scientists and prevented that. However, the aerosol industry didn't have anything like the political clout or deep pockets of the fossil fuel industry. They never mounted a denial campaign.

You can get the full story of this at the Skeptical Science website. You'll also find a long list of denier myths, distortions and specious arguments, like the "climate has always changed" mantra, (Of course it has, but there is a mountain of scientific evidence proving that this time we are causing it) and all of them are debunked using peer-reviewed data but everything is written in plain English.

It's time we wised up. We're being played for suckers by a cynical fossil fuel strategy. We need to listen to The National Academy of Sciences and every other scientific body in the world, over 200 of them, all of which are telling us global warming is man-made and extremely dangerous. And thousands of the world's best climate scientists say the same. Last year there were 10,866 peer-reviewed climate science papers published worldwide, and not one disagrees on AGW.

That's because it's a fact, not a theory. Discovered in the 19th century, easy to prove and demonstrate. Simple chemistry and physics. (Wikipedia) There has never been a debate about it in the world of scientists. They also don't debate things like the boiling point of water, the speed of light or the existence of X and Y chromosomes.

We've ignored the warnings of climate scientists far too long. Now we're running out of time to avoid the "catastrophic" global warming the latest IPCC reports are warning us about. They tell us we have about 15 years left to make major CO2 emissions cuts. And scientists are not "alarmists," Just the opposite. The IPCC estimates are quite conservative compared to what's in the peer-reviewed literature.

To accomplish those CO2 cuts in time, we'll need to phase out fossil fuels as fast as possible. Fortunately there's a plan for that and it will cut emissions faster than the EPA without any government regulations, just market forces. And it's revenue-neutral. It will cost us nothing and save us trillions. It's supported by most economists, eight of them Nobel Prize winners.

We charge fossil fuels a pollution fee that increases each year, making dirty energy increasingly more expensive than clean energy. All of that money goes to consumers, not the government, a check in the mail, about \$300 a month for a family of four. People could use that money to buy solar and wind energy, the logical economic choice. We'll also tax imports from carbon polluters like China and people can use that money to buy American products.

A new REMI study shows this plan will create 2.8 million new jobs and add \$1 trillion to our GDP. It's a win-win for our climate and our economy. Climate change has already cost American taxpayers over \$1 trillion (NOAA website) and the International Energy agency says just two more years of delay in major CO2 cuts will cost \$4 trillion. The math is pretty clear here.

British Columbia implemented such a plan five years ago; their greenhouse emissions have decreased 10 percent, their GDP has grown more than the rest of Canada, and they've added jobs, even in the down economy of the past five years. It's been deemed "a success" by The Economist. So there is a working model.

You can find out more about this revenue-neutral, consumer-friendly plan at the Citizens Climate Lobby. All we lack is the political will to make this happen.

http://www.lcsun-news.com/las_cruces-opinion/ci_26018207/we-need-listen-scientists-issue-climate-change

Des Moines Register

6/24/2014

Letter to Editor

Margaret Vernon, Indianola, IA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter IA Des Moines

I'd like to underscore the immediate need for action to avert profound risks posed by climate change. The report was written by the coalition of financial leaders, including Republicans and Democrats, and was reported in the Register on June 25.

Henry Paulson, George Shultz and Robert Rubin, the former Treasury secretaries for George W. Bush, Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton, all back a carbon tax that would put a price on greenhouse gas emissions. Paulson said, "The good news: If we act immediately, we can avert the worst outcomes."

Please put these reports on the front page of the Des Moines Register to help emphasize the urgency of the need for action to avert climate and financial disaster.

--Margaret Vernon, Indianola

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/06/28/urgent-climate-report-needed-page-play/11575945/>

Sacramento Bee

6/24/2014

Letter to Editor

Christine Bailey, Gold River, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Bipartisan support for climate action

Re "Report tallies economic toll of global warming" (Page A5, June 24): Republican and Democratic economists call attention to this latest report which describes damage to America if we do not come together to address climate change. Impacts described in this report done by an economic modeling firm that often does work for the oil and gas industry include destruction of homes and businesses along the coasts, disruption of agriculture, construction and tourism, and damage to human health.

These economists endorse putting a tax on greenhouse gases as the way to avoid the worst of this damage. Failing to take action soon would mean bigger government and much higher taxes in the future to cover the enormous costs of adapting to climate change and providing disaster recovery. All Americans must put aside our divisiveness to address this issue. A market-based carbon tax with 100 percent of revenue returned to Americans would safeguard the future of our investments, health, grandchildren and environment.

-- Christine Bailey, Gold River

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/24/6508658/bipartisan-support-for-climate.html>

Lynchburg News and Advance

6/25/2014

Letter to Editor

Lawrence H. Symonds, Lynchburg, VA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter VA Lynchburg

Writer: Carbon fee not a job killer

Finally, some good news about climate change/global warming!

While recent reports on the impact of climate change underscore the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a new study finds that a fee on carbon can reduce those emissions while also adding jobs to the economy.

Conducted by Regional Economic Models Inc., the study examined the possible impact of a fee imposed on the carbon-dioxide content of fossil fuels. The fee would start at \$10 per ton, increasing at \$10 per ton each year. Revenue from the tax would be returned to households in equal shares as direct payments. Under this approach, the REMI study found that recycling the revenue back into the economy would add 2.2 million jobs over ten years. Improvements in air quality would save 13,000 lives a year. Emissions would decline by 33 percent.

Commissioned by Citizens Climate Lobby, this study shows that by giving the revenue back to the people, a carbon fee will actually stimulate the economy. The big push-back on a such a tax has been that it would kill jobs, which this study demonstrates is no longer a valid assumption.

In May, the National Climate Assessment reported that the impact of climate change is already being felt across the nation, and Virginia is one of the most vulnerable. Historic Jamestowne, was listed as threatened by climate change in a report released last month by the Union of Concerned Scientists. The others were NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Fort Monroe in Hampton and NASA's Wallops Island Flight Facility on the Eastern Shore.

Despite the best efforts of Climate Change deniers to convince us otherwise, the risks of climate change aren't new, and will only continue to escalate. Dorothy Geyer, a natural resources manager for the Park Service, reports observing marshes on Jamestown Island migrate horizontally by a couple of feet since 1998. If Hampton Roads sees four feet of sea level rise by the end of the century, as some scientists predict, 80 percent of the island will then be underwater.

The situation here in Virginia will get much worse if we fail to curb greenhouse gases. The good news is we don't have to make a choice between protecting the climate and protecting jobs. This study demonstrates we can do both with a carbon tax that gives money back to households.

Members of CCL chapters are in Washington this week to meet with representatives and senators to present the REMI study and urge them to pass a revenue-neutral carbon fee. Many members of Congress are pushing back hard against new EPA regulations to limit carbon at power plants, but recent evidence shows we have to cut emissions, and if our lawmakers want to avoid more regulations, they need to get behind a market-based approach like this one.

LAWRENCE H. SYMONDS

Coordinator

Lynchburg Area CCL Chapter

http://www.newsadvance.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/letters-to-the-editor-for-wednesday-june/article_df5c35f0-fbda-11e3-a839-001a4bcf6878.html

Corvallis Gazette Times

6/25/2014

Letter to Editor

George Vee

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter OR Corvallis

Letter: Carbon tax would be good for environment and the economy

Writers to the Gazette-Times have mentioned that there are too-high costs associated with acting to reduce carbon emissions.

When the EPA tries to regulate power plant emissions, Republicans cry "this is nuts." But there is a strong response to both of these fears.

A study by Regional Economic Models Inc. of the economic effect of a gradually Increasing carbon tax form fossil fuel producers and a border tariff adjustment with 100 percent rebated to the public would lead to the following results:

CO2 emissions decline 33 percent after 10 years

National employment increases by 2.1 million jobs after 10 years

Additional \$70 billion to \$90 billion in annual GDP

\$200 to \$400 monthly dividend for family of four

So, adopting a carbon tax will not lead to economic decline. Instead, it will stimulate the economy and will lead to coal generation flat in baseline without EPA rules.

George Vee

Corvallis

http://www.gazettetimes.com/news/opinion/mailbag/letter-carbon-tax-would-be-good-for-environment-and-the/article_9ab27b2c-fc42-11e3-b830-001a4bcf887a.html

Southside Sentinel

6/26/2014

Letter to Editor

Maureen Fairbrother, MD, Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter VA Northern Neck

Support an Excise Fee on Carbon Dioxide Emissions

As the impact of global warming and the climate changes it triggers becomes more and more apparent we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emission in ways that are acceptable in our free-market economy. While many welcome the initiatives promoted by the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce the contribution of carbon-dioxide emission from fossil fuels to climate change, others oppose the imposition of more government regulations. I was deeply saddened, talking this week with my 15 year old granddaughter, when she said that she had no expectations that our democratic system was capable of cooperating and dealing

with this issue in a timely way.

A recent study by Regional Economic Models Inc. [which since 1980 has provided numerous economic impact studies to government and private sector clients] examined the impact of an excise fee on the carbon dioxide released from fossil fuels. Direct return of all revenue in equal shares to each adult and a half share for up to 2 children in every household was key to the impressive predictions for this approach. In this model the fee starts at \$10 per ton of carbon-dioxide and rises by \$10 dollars each year. Returning the revenues directly back into the U.S. economy adds 2.2 million jobs over 10 years and carbon-dioxide emissions decline by 33%; improved air quality saves 13,000 lives a year. The REMI study provides detailed data by region and by sector of the economy. However British Columbia has actually been using this approach successfully for over 5 years with increasing electoral support.

By putting the money and power back in the hands of each and every adult we too can move towards a healthy future that is sustainable for our children and grandchildren. Please contact Congressman Wittman at [804] 443-0668, requesting his support for this proposal - an excise fee on carbon dioxide emission from fossil fuels with the money going directly back to us, the people he represents.

Yours sincerely,

Maureen Fairbrother MD.,Hartfield,

No link to LTE www.ssentinel.com is home page

Journal News

6/26/2014

Letter to Editor

Ronald Chomiw

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter NY Westchester

Title: Carbon tax can help curb climate change

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said, "Climate change is going to make weather events more frequent and more severe." This dire prediction would be inevitable only if no action is taken.

One intervening example is a carbon tax levied on producers of CO₂. CO₂ levels exceed 400 ppm, unprecedented in human history. This tax would start at \$10/ton and increase \$10/ton annual at the point source. With all revenue returned to households, 2.2 million jobs and an increase of \$80 billion to \$90 billion GDP could be realized by 2025.

A border tariff would protect American companies and provide an incentive for other nations to follow our lead. This approach is not only good for our environment, but our economy as well.

Ronald Chomiw

Cortlandt

<http://www.lohud.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/06/26/letter-carbon-tax-can-help-curb-climate-change/11442693/>

Illinois Times

6/26/2014

Letter to Editor

Lynn Goldfarb, Lancaster, PA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Lancaster

TAXING CARBON

Regulations aren't nearly enough. ("The future of power," by Patrick Yeagle, June 12.) There's a better way: A revenue-neutral carbon tax, paid to taxpayers rather than by them. We use that tax money to switch to solar and wind energy, which will scale up and become cheaper than fossil fuels are now. Fossil fuels will be phased out by market forces much faster than by the EPA. A new REMI economic report shows this plan will help, not hurt, our economy.

So far climate-change disasters have cost U.S. taxpayers over a trillion dollars (NOAA) and the International Energy Agency estimates that just two more years of delay in making major CO2 cuts will cost \$4 trillion more. The latest IPCC reports say we'll be facing "catastrophic" global warming if we don't make drastic cuts in CO2 emissions in the next 15 years. We'll need to start soon to achieve those cuts in time.

So will other nations like China and India. The EPA can do nothing to affect that, but a carbon tax placed on imports can. The higher the producer-country's CO2 emissions, the higher the tax.

The EPA carbon regulations also ignore methane, a greenhouse gas 100 times more powerful than CO2, emitted by fracking, which makes natural gas just as bad as coal. If all the EPA does is create a switch from coal to natural gas it will have done nothing about global warming.

The Citizens Climate Lobby website has more on the revenue-neutral carbon tax that's supported by eight Nobel economists.

<http://illinoistimes.com/mobile/articles/articleView/id:14120>

Post Independent/Citizen Telegram/Grand Junction Free Press

6/26/2014

Letter to Editor

Pete Kuntz, Lancaster, PA, Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Lancaster

Carbon tax can avert catastrophe

The June 18 letter, "We have good, affordable alternatives to fossil fuels," makes a solid case for phasing out all fossil fuels as soon as possible. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warnings about future global warming have now moved from "dangerous" to "catastrophic." They give us just a 15-year window to change course to avoid the latter.

Fortunately, there is way we can avert total disaster and boost our economy at the same time.

A new report says a revenue-neutral carbon tax will cut emissions more and faster than the new EPA regulations, using only market forces, while adding 2.8 million jobs and \$1 trillion to our GDP.

With a carbon pollution fee for oil, coal and natural gas that's rebated directly, 100 percent, to consumers, we create a tax swap. For us, it's a wash, but it'll be fatal for fossil fuels. As the fee steadily increases each year, people will, naturally, choose to switch to clean energy. As solar and wind energy scale up, they'll be cheaper than fossil fuels are now.

Climate change has already cost U.S. taxpayers over \$1 trillion (NOAA website). The International Energy Agency estimates just two more years of delaying major emissions reductions will cost \$4 trillion. The math here is pretty clear.

The revenue-neutral pollution fee would also include imports from carbon polluters like China.

They'd be forced to go green fast to compete economically. Meanwhile, we'll get that money too and can buy U.S. products with it.

British Columbia instituted just such a plan five years ago and it's been deemed a success by The Economist. It created jobs in a down global economy, a higher GDP than the rest of Canada and made 10 percent cuts in emissions. The plan works. It will be a win-win for our economy and our children's future. Most economists support this revenue-neutral plan, including eight Nobel Prize winners. <http://www.postindependent.com/opinion/lettertotheeditor/11995010-113/carbon-fossil-fuels-economy>

Quincy Valley Post-Register

6/26/2014

Editorial

Alexandra Amonette, Tri-Cities

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WA Tri-cities

A reply to 'Quit piling on regulations'

Guest Editorial

A reply to "Quit piling on regulations"

I agree, we do need to No. 1, slash our carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and No. 2, eliminate the huge subsidies to all forms of energy. We can ask Congress to enact a revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend (see www.CitizensClimateLobby.org) to create jobs.

"Revenue-neutral" means a fee is collected and returned directly to the taxpayer either as a rebate or tax reduction.

The carbon fee is collected where the carbon first enters the U.S. economy (oil or gas well, coal mine, or port), starting at \$15 a ton of CO₂ and ramping up gradually \$10 a ton a year.

All the revenues are reimbursed directly to all American households in equal shares as direct payments. A border tax adjustment and export rebates protect domestic manufacturers. Not one dime goes to the government.

A just-released study by Regional Economic Models, Inc. finds that returning all the revenue to households would generate up to \$400 billion in carbon tax revenues by 2025 and provide a monthly dividend of \$288 for a family of four with two adults in 2025; \$396 in 2035. Annually, this is \$3,456 per family of 4 (\$1152 per capita" children get \hat{A} ½ dividend) in 2025.

The move would add 2.2 million jobs over ten years and 2.8 million after 20 years while increasing the gross domestic product \$70 billion to \$85 billion from 2020 on, with a cumulative increase in national GDP of \$1.375 trillion by 2035.

It would also save 13,000 American lives a year due to improvements in air quality, with a cumulative 227,000 lives saved over 20 years. The carbon fee would cause CO₂ emissions to decline by 33 percent within the next decade and 52 percent by 2035 and make low-carbon energy cheaper than fossil fuels within a decade.

Under this plan, two-thirds of all households would break even or receive more in their dividend check than they would pay for the increased cost of energy, thereby protecting the poor and middle class. The predictably increasing carbon price will send a clear market signal, unleashing entrepreneurs and investors in the new low-carbon energy economy. It will create the broad incentives to encourage decision-makers at all levels of society to reduce CO2 emissions through conservation, substitution and the innovation that the author of the article urges.

Recently, the National Climate Assessment reported that the impacts of global warming are being felt. We've already seen a 15 percent to 35 percent decrease in snowpack in the Cascades which threatens our water supplies. By 2060, water shortages during the spring and summer in the Yakima Valley alone are expected to cost \$66 million a year in crop losses.

CCL volunteers from Washington State are traveling on their own dimes to Washington D.C., next week to present the REMI study to Congress because the need for action on global warming is urgent. They'll ask Congress to pass a revenue-neutral carbon tax.

This is the "better way" we can all support! Please call your representatives and ask them to enact a revenue-neutral carbon tax now!

Thank you.

Alexandra Amonette, Richland

Link n/a

Times Argus

6/26/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

All can support carbon tax

I loved Jasper Craven's article about Rep. Peter Welch sponsoring legislation with different Republicans. As Welch summed up his methodology, "You treat them with respect, you try and focus on the common ground."

This is Citizens' Climate Lobby's methodology. CCL is an organization of volunteers lobbying Congress for legislation to stabilize the climate. When we meet members of Congress we offer words of appreciation, express gratitude and discuss our concerns with respect. Thus we form relationships with members of Congress while seeking global warming legislation.

Right now 600 CCL members are in Washington for our annual international conference. We hope to garner support for a revenue-neutral carbon tax. We'll talk with senators and representatives on both sides of the aisle.

We'll ask Republicans to sponsor carbon tax legislation, even if they are undecided on global warming. A carbon tax is a market-based solution to the market failure allowing businesses and people to emit soot for free while other folks suffer the consequences of the soot (especially lung diseases). Allowing some people to benefit at the cost of others because fossil fuel prices do not reflect their true costs flies in the face of conservative economic principles. Since carbon taxes tax what we don't want (pollution/soot) instead of things we want (income), conservatives can support it even if agnostic about climate change.

We'll also ask Democrats to support carbon tax legislation instead of regulations or cap and trade, urging them to agree to a revenue-neutral carbon tax, rebated entirely to households. Fully rebated carbon taxes won't slow the economy. In fact, economic growth would result, creating 2 million more jobs than would be created without a carbon tax (see REMI's study).

Democrats or Republicans: "It's a long, long road. ... We'll get there ... so on we go."

Rabbi Judy Weiss, Brookline, Mass.

<http://www.timesargus.com/article/20140626/OPINION02/706269939>

Washington Post

6/26/2014

Letter to Editor

Tamara Kellogg

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Supreme Court's EPA ruling a second-best outcome

I read Cara Smith's June 22 Local Opinions commentary, "Clearing the air in Maryland," with a mixture of sadness and validation. A volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby, I, too, have noticed that air quality has worsened in my lifetime.

A simple, elegant solution to this problem would be an across-the-board carbon tax. With revenue from the tax returned to U.S. households, price increases would be manageable. By gradually increasing the tax every year, the economy would have time to adjust and shift incentives for how we create electricity, and clean technologies would grow out of a free market.

Already economists from conservative and liberal camps agree that it's the best answer.

Tamara Kellogg, Washington

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-carbon-tax-would-help-us-breathe-easy/2014/06/25/921e67ac-fbc8-11e3-b8bf-54b8afb537b6_story.html

Gloucester-Mathews Gazette- Journal

6/26/2014

Letter to Editor

Bob Lindsey, Callao VA, Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter VA Northern Neck

Carbon fee would reduce emissions, add jobs

Last month, the congressionally mandated National Climate Assessment (NCA) reported that the impact of climate change is already being felt across the nation in the form of severe drought, rising sea level, extreme rain and wind storms, and wildfires. There is no longer any debate among responsible, credible climate scientist: They agree that the burning of fossil (carbon-based) fuel is a major cause of Earth's warming climate.

Clearly, if energy currently produced by coal, natural gas, and gasoline is to be reduced, alternative sources of energy must be identified and employed. The free market is the proper place for selecting which alternatives to build and where. In the free market, the true costs of fossil fuels—the costs of mitigation and recovery from the impacts of global warming plus the cost of production and distribution—must be considered.

A recent comprehensive study conducted by Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) finds that an excise fee on carbon can reduce greenhouse gas emissions while adding jobs to the economy—if the revenues are returned to households.

The REMI study started with an excise fee of \$10 per ton on the carbon content of fossil fuels, increasing by \$10 per ton annually. Revenue from the fee would not be used for government purposes, but would be returned to U.S. households in equal shares as direct monthly payments. Under this approach, recycling the revenue back into the economy would add 2.2 million jobs over 10 years, replacing jobs lost by imposing the fee. Resulting improvements in air quality would save 13,000 lives a year. Emissions would decline by 33 percent.

Readers should contact Congressman Rob Wittman and ask him to support this conservative, market-based solution to the problem of reducing carbon dioxide emitted by burning fossil fuel.

Bob Lindsey, Callao, VA

N/A Newspaper has link but no opinion pieces are included

Gloucester-Mathews Gazette- Journal

6/26/2014

Letter to Editor

Gregory T. Haugan, Heathsville

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter VA Northern Neck

Study the options to mitigate global warming

I wish to thank you for your piece titled “The Death of Reason” that decried the increasing absolutism in our “ persons in the position to govern, lead or influence the nation.” I have found this especially true in the area of climate change where I am an advocate of mitigation actions. There are two aspects, one relates to the scientific data where a degree of absolutism is expected. After all, when you read a thermometer or some other scientific instrument and record the data, there is a large degree of absolutism. However, what you should do about the data when it clearly shows global warming or ocean acidification or increases in intensity of weather events are occurring becomes an open issue. While I favor one alternative to mitigating global warming, that of putting a price on carbon and remitting the revenues to households, I recognize that there are many alternatives. Another is to use regulations to control emissions or to use voluntary reduction of carbon footprints or to rely on adaptive measures. These are where the discussions need to focus, not on some false dichotomy concerning scientific data and whether or not changes to the climate are occurring as a result of human actions.

Gregory T Haugan, PhD

Heathsville, VA

N/A Newspaper has link but no opinion pieces are included

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

6/26/2014

Letter to Editor

Jerry Landrum

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter AR Eureka Springs

Carbon fee necessity

Thank you for Shelley Buonaiuto's wake-up call to us Sleeping Beauties to enact a state-level carbon fee and dividend as a way to meet the new EPA Clean Power Plan.

These fees on carbon pollution would all be returned to Arkansas families. The amount of the dividend would slowly rise to about \$300 per month for a family of four by 2025. That is cash in your pocket every month! That should appeal to most Arkansas voters, and it makes the carbon fee and dividend possible.

Now we all know people who don't want to be bothered with the climate crises, people who practice conspicuous consumption, people who think global warming is a conspiracy between Al Gore and all the thermometers, people who don't care about your grandchildren, people who want to mutiny against the EPA regulations, people who deny the science of reality. You know these people; they make the carbon fee and dividend necessary.

The Arkansas carbon fee and dividend is not only possible, it is necessary.

JERRY LANDRUM

Eureka Springs

www.arkansasonline.com/

Sacramento Bee

6/26/2014

Letter to Editor

Eileen Heinrich, Sacramento, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Who should pay for risky business?

Re "Report tallies economic toll of global warming"(Page A5, June 24): Bipartisan support for business leaders to take global warming seriously was portrayed in the newly released report, aptly named, "Risky Business." There was agreement among three former treasury secretaries, two were Republicans who served Presidents Nixon, Reagan and George W. Bush, that businesses need to take responsibility for their carbon emissions.

The true cost of business includes the cost of the effects of climate change, including annual property losses from hurricanes and other coastal storms of \$35 billion, a decline in crop yields of 14 percent, costing farmers tens of billions of dollars, etc. These costs from climate change are expected in the United States over the next 25 years, according to this report. The price tag could soar to hundreds of billions by 2100.

This is a bipartisan issue. We need to let our current legislators know that carbon tax and dividend legislation is needed now.

-- Eileen Heinrich, Sacramento

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/26/6515299/who-should-pay-for-risky-business.html>

Express-Times

6/27/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

LETTER: School boards right to insist on 'true science'

Express-Times Letters to the Editor

Thank you for Sara Satullo's great article covering the Saucon Valley School Board's decision not to supplement a perfectly good environmental science textbook with false information from climate change denying sources ("Heated debate on global warming," June 26).

I spent three days this week in Washington at a climate change conference run by Citizens' Climate Lobby. We're advocating a carbon tax which is 100 percent rebated to households as the best economic policy solution to the problem of global warming.

At the conference, CCL's founder Marshall Saunders urged us to continue our work to change the course of global warming. He quoted Robert F. Kennedy: "Moral courage is a rarer commodity than bravery in battle or great intelligence. Yet it is the one essential, vital quality for those who seek to change a world that yields most painfully to change."

By teaching true science, a school district will be equipping students to understand the environment.

It is up to social studies teachers to explore with students the human propensity to resist change, and consider those great leaders who have had the moral courage to bring necessary change to our society.

JUDY WEISS

Volunteer member, Citizens' Climate Lobby, Brookline, Mass.

http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/06/letter_school_boards_right_to.html

The Republican

6/27/2014

Letter to Editor

D. R. Tucker, Brockton

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Congress must consider a simple, innovative approach to curb carbon emissions

The legal complications surrounding the EPA's regulation of greenhouse gas emissions are just one more reason why Congress must embrace a simple approach to this issue: the passage of strong legislation that places a gradually rising fee on carbon emissions, with all collected revenues returned to the public as a dividend, to give polluters an incentive to move away from dirty energy sources.

Opponents of government regulation in Congress should embrace this idea ““and they will, if their constituents let them know, in no uncertain terms, that they want this common-sense legislation passed.

D. R. Tucker, Brockton

http://www.masslive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/06/letters_to_the_editor_congress_16.html

Washington Post

6/27/2014

Letter to Editor

Sabrina S. Fu, Ellicott City

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MD Baltimore

This piece came out online on June 27, 2014, and then in print on June 29, 2014.

I felt a lot of fear as I read “Turning back the climate clock,” fear for those who own homes on the Outer Banks and fear for those around the world whose only homes are near the oceans. I hope those who want to deny the science behind global warming’s forecast will move forward to do the right thing --work on long-term solutions for climate change. Let’s stop shooting the messenger and denying the message and instead work together to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Sabrina S. Fu, Ellicott City

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/climate-change-deniers-have-their-head-in-the-north-carolina-sand-while-it-lasts/2014/06/27/4adecf66-fc87-11e3-9b05-7ec49dc09d97_story.html

Richmond Times Dispatch

6/27/2014

Letter to Editor

Helen Lindsey

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter VA Richmond

We must change our ways

Editor, Times-Dispatch:

A recent writer's suggestion that other countries contribute to the carbon tax had an excellent idea. There must be a global effort to reduce the damages being done.

Whether humans contribute to global warming or not, we need to do what's right for our home. We are poisoning our air, soil, lakes, rivers and oceans. We are decimating entire critical species.

There are too many humans for the earth's resources to continue to support. We need to drastically reduce population growth.

Corporate giants attempt to frighten us with phrases such as "we cannot afford it" or "it will cost jobs and damage the economy" if we pass laws to curtail our destruction of the natural world.

Smaller, less-rich countries have been more aggressive and successful in developing alternative energy sources. Change is rarely easy, but if we have the technology to create a space station, we are capable of changing how we treat the earth.

There are constant signs of things going wrong in nature which aren't publicized often enough such as deformed frogs and bee destruction. Do we believe we are immune from these things? Are they affecting us now in the form of health and behaviors and we don't want to connect the dots?

Our unique good fortune to exist on a planet evidently means little to us if we continue to fool ourselves into thinking our activities have no impact. Will we do the right thing? I doubt it -- there's money to be made.

Helen Lindsey. Henrico.

http://www.timesdispatch.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor-skewing-data-doesn-t-make-it/article_c7faaed0-d654-5458-b928-f87437951e99.html

Minnpost.com

6/27/2014

Letter to Editor

Lynn Goldfarb, Lancaster,PA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Lancaster

With carbon tax refunded to consumers, jobs would actually grow

The June 27 Earth Journal article, "As Gore charts progress on climate, new risk analysis paints dire scenarios," does an excellent job of summarizing the projections in the new "Risky Business" report [PDF] about the crushing economic burden climate change will create. The longer we wait to do something about it, the more it's going to cost.

The opposition to reducing emissions has been the assumption that it will be a "job killer." Now another new economic report [PDF], this one from REMI, shows that a fee-and-dividend carbon tax would, in fact, create 2.8 million net U.S. jobs and increase GDP \$75-80 billion annually while cutting emissions more and faster than EPA regulations.

The plan studied is a revenue-neutral carbon pollution fee [PDF] based on the carbon-dioxide content of fossil fuels. The money would go to consumers, a monthly check in the mail. Lower-income and middle-class Americans come out ahead or at least break even. The fee increases annually, making fossil fuels more and more expensive than solar and wind energy. People use their carbon fee money to buy clean energy. The fee also applies to carbon polluters like China, so they're forced to cut emissions to compete, while Americans get that import fee and could buy U.S. products with it.

The National Academy of Sciences website says that over 97 percent of scientists agree climate change is manmade and without major CO2 emission cuts within the next 15 years we'll face "catastrophic" climate change. Even if we could stop all carbon emissions tomorrow, our emissions today won't heat up and effect us for about four decades. And the emissions we're creating won't dissipate for millennia. That's why fast climate action is imperative.

The Citizens Climate Lobby website has more on this revenue-neutral market-driven plan. It's supported by most economists, Republican and Democratic, including eight Nobel Prize winners.

<http://www.minnpost.com/letters/2014/06/carbon-tax-refunded-consumers-jobs-would-actually-grow#comment-form>

Portage County Gazette

6/27/2014

Letter to Editor

John Rendall, Scandinavia

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Central Wisconsin

Climate change debate over

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the Fox network for putting an end to the false debate about climate change.

Fox aired a Cosmos show that emphatically stated the vast majority of scientists say climate change is real, driven by humans and a big threat to the environment.

So end of debate. if Fox has seen the light, now we can get down to solving the problem instead of pretending it doesn't exist. Thanks again, Fox.

John Rendall

Scandinavia

Link n/a

St Louis Post-Dispatch

6/27/2014

Op-Ed

Tom Braford, St Louis

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MO St Louis

Making the people's case for effective climate legislation

Editorial: EPA emission rules a good, but not great, step forward

Giving up is not worthy of a great people. The United States, with 4.4 percent of the world's population, accounts for 17 percent of the world's

Editorial: Poverty is crushing African-Americans in the St. Louis region

Sixty years after the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* ruling, and 50 years past the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a study of the health of A

Two editorials appeared on the same day this month, "EPA emission rules a good, but not great, step forward" and "Poverty is crushing African-Americans in the St. Louis region." As they pointed out, the St. Louis region, the city of St. Louis and especially the north side are already on the bleeding edge of two related, looming social, environmental and economic catastrophes: man-made climate change and race-related economic disparity.

We could turn that around by being on the cutting edge with top-down, middle-out and bottom-up solutions that would have Greater St. Louis known as the "We Will Show You" region. There are key steps we can take locally to build sustainable communities at the neighborhood level. And we need our leaders in Washington to join forces to introduce legislation, addressing these issues that can win bipartisan support.

First District Congressman William Lacy Clay was the first national elected official to agree to sponsor carbon fee and dividend legislation if a Republican co-sponsor could be found.

Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, whose district includes St. Charles County, could be a hero of the economy, the environment and the social order if he or some other champion of traditional values were to recognize the common cause that this conservative, market-based solution offers.

It is revenue-neutral, so it does not expand the size of the government. It is an alternative to EPA regulations. According to the REMI report released this month, it will expand our regional and

national economy, while also reducing health care costs and premature deaths, more dramatically in our region and the rest of the upper Plains states than anywhere else in the country.

This would benefit all St. Louisans, but especially our region's economically disadvantaged blacks and Latinos, who would be offered a hand up in the form of new job opportunities in the green economy.

We call on Congressman Luetkemeyer and other members of the Missouri delegation to take action now to understand and support this important legislation that they discussed this week with their constituents and other volunteers from the Citizens' Climate Lobby.

Any thoughtful person should be able to support this legislation if they seriously consider the alternatives, which are too-little, too-late regulation and an ever more broadly disadvantaged region.

Tom Braford is a former progressive Republican candidate for mayor of St. Louis, a Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer and co-founder of Integral Ecovillage Solutions Consulting & Development Services.

http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/columns/making-the-people-s-case-for-effective-climate-legislation/article_4d34b841-6310-5a57-ba96-736007eee580.html

Washington Post

6/27/2014

Letter to Editor

Sabrina S. Fu, Ellicott City

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MD Baltimore

Climate change deniers in North Carolina have their head in the sand (while it lasts). June 27, 2014. Print edition on June 29, 2014.

I felt a lot of fear as I read “Turning back the climate clock,” fear for those who own homes on the Outer Banks and fear for those around the world whose only homes are near the oceans. I hope those who want to deny the science behind global warming’s forecast will move forward to do the right thing — work on long-term solutions for climate change. Let’s stop shooting the messenger and denying the message and instead work together to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Sabrina S. Fu, Ellicott City

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/climate-change-deniers-have-their-head-in-the-north-carolina-sand-while-it-lasts/2014/06/27/4adecf66-fc87-11e3-9b05-7ec49dc09d97_story.html

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/climate-change-deniers-have-their-head-in-the-north-carolina-sand-while-it-lasts/2014/06/27/4adecf66-fc87-11e3-9b05-7ec49dc09d97_story.html

The Claremont Courier

6/27/2014

Op-ed

David Lutz

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Inland Valley

New group takes on global warming gases

June 27, 2014 11:02 AM

“Future generations will look back at the time we are living in now. The kind of future they look from, and the story they tell about our period, will be shaped by choices we make in our lifetimes.”--Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone, Active Hope

Global warming: what an oppressive topic this has been to me. I'm not one to hide from the news --I read, I see, I worry.

Every day, in the United States, 80 million tons of CO₂ get pumped into the atmosphere, driving planet temperatures higher and creating ever-increasing bad news about rising oceans, extreme weather, loss of species””all of which, if left unchecked, will bring a great deal of suffering. I recently saw the movie Chasing Ice, which shows glaciers melting at an ever-increasing pace, sliding into the sea. And I know that 97 percent of all scientists agree that global warming is the result of human activity.

My grandchildren look at the grownups around them with such trust! They can't know that the quality of their future lives depends on their grownups acting now””that in a few years it will be too late to make much difference.

But reading as I do has not just acquainted me with the bad news. I have also learned about many of the creative and courageous organizations that have sprung up around the globe to take on one or another of the challenges brought on by climate change. For the past year I have been a part of one of these: a fast-growing national movement that is promoting a plan that they believe will make a significant cut in greenhouse gases.

Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) is working on a single project, based on ideas of economists and climate scientists: to get a fee placed on carbon-based fuels””coal, gas and oil””all major sources of the problem. A fee on carbon, rising slowly over a number of years, say economists and CCL members, will give businesses as well as individuals motivation to spend money

differently”” spend less on products and fuels that contain carbon, more on products and fuels that don’t. They also point out that a rising fee on carbon would provide renewable fuels with a level playing field, and would stimulate innovation in a variety of related fields. For information, visit citizensclimatelobby.org.

The added costs consumers would pay, with a carbon fee in place, would not be great (especially if compared to the high costs everyone will face if no corrective action is taken). Nonetheless, CCL’s plan would return all the money raised by the fee to American households, thereby offsetting any higher consumer costs.

British Columbia initiated a carbon fee plan in 2008. Since then the province has experienced a 15.1 percent drop in fuel consumption and a 9.9 percent decline in greenhouse gas emissions. The fee has remained revenue-neutral (has actually resulted in a net benefit for taxpayers) and the GDP has been unaffected. Finland, Sweden, Great Britain, New Zealand, Quebec, Australia and Ireland have initiated carbon fees or variations on the plan.

There are hundreds of Citizens Climate Lobby chapters now across the United States, as well as in Canada and a few other countries. Now there is one more CCL chapter: our own Inland Valley Citizens Climate Lobby branch had its start-up gathering May 31. Inland Valley CCL will meet the first Saturday of every month at the Monte Vista Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 9185 Monte Vista Ave. in Montclair. All are welcome. For information, contact Ann Schranz, group convener, at (909) 946-4939.

Demystifying Sustainability is a project of Sustainable Claremont (sustainableclaremont.org), email address info@sustainableclaremont.org. Follow them on Facebook at: [facebook.com/sustainableclaremont](https://www.facebook.com/sustainableclaremont) and on Twitter #GreenClaremont.

<https://www.claremont-courier.com/articles/opinion/t12205-warming>

The Fresno Bee

6/28/2014

Letter to Editor

Devin Carroll

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Fresno

Climate modeling works

The climate-change denier machine has been spreading the idea that scientists "manipulated" temperature data to hide the "fact" that average world temperature was actually warmer in the 1930s.

Suppose you wanted to know the average temperature of Europe in the 1700s but only had records from London and Rome. Would you blame scientists for using a model to estimate the temperatures of Moscow and Athens? Would that be some kind of "conspiracy"? This is the purpose of models that make 1930 data comparable to 2014 data.

Climatology has improved immensely since even the 1970s, when computers and satellites were just coming into play. People don't realize how much more we know today. When scientists say that the climate is warming and models show the cause is the megatons of carbon dioxide we are emitting, they have the data to prove it.

If the planet is not warming, why are the ice caps melting?

These fabricated arguments paid for by the Koch brothers and their pals show the weakness and venality of their stand. It is time for everyone to pull together and do everything we can to slow the release of greenhouse gases.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iBY7Yirq60>

Daily Herald

6/28/2014

Letter to Editor

Rick Knight, Brookfield IL

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter IL Chicago Southwest

Global warming will cost us dearly

This week the Daily Herald ran a story about global warming ("Money men tally cost of climate change," Business, June 24), but not the usual stuff. Instead of sad polar bears or disappearing tropical islands, the story talked about something most Americans actually care about: money. And the favorite whipping boy of climate "skeptics" -- Al Gore -- did not even make an appearance!

Instead, the report was commissioned by former GOP Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson, former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg and hedge fund tycoon Tom Steyer. The report was not written by some left-leaning environmental group, but by two respected economic analysis and risk management firms. It soberly declared that the costs of global warming, for the U.S. alone, will run up a tab in the hundreds of billions before your grandchildren retire.

These hard-nosed businessmen also recommended the only remedy that can really have a broad and deep impact is putting a price on carbon. And, in spite of the howls of some politicians, a carbon fee would not slow the economy, but would in fact accelerate it if the money were returned to consumers in the form of an across-the-board equally distributed rebate. This was shown in another economic analysis released earlier this month by Regional Economic Models Inc.

To put the icing on the cake, this latest report came on the heels of the global temperature data showing that May 2014 was the hottest May on record. Not impressed by that? Take note that the last time we had a global cold temperature record was in December 1916. What more do we need to close the spigot of hot air spouting from politicians and interest group lobbyists who still deny the reality of global warming?

<https://www.dailyherald.com/article/20140628/discuss/140628643/>

Concord Monitor

6/28/2014

Letter to Editor

Judy Weiss, Brookline

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MA Boston

Letter: A heavy task

For the Monitor

Saturday, June 28, 2014

I was deeply moved by your editorial "Individual action defines generations" (Monitor, June 19), and your call to this year's graduates: "There is little doubt that the chapter assigned to the millennials is climate change. There will be many, many individual stories to tell as the battle progresses, but it is the collective victory or failure to repair the planet that will define the generation. And because there are many politicians who are not in favor of this particular story line, it is up to this new population of voters to make sure misguided lawmakers become footnotes sooner rather than later."

What a heavy task is laid on them "to write this chapter of humanity's history. What a burden is lifted "to know from the outset what one wants to do with one's life. What a noble pursuit "to save the world.

RABBI JUDY WEISS

Brookline, Mass.

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/opinion/12582580-95/letter-a-heavy-task>

Lewiston Tribune

6/28/2014

Letter to Editor

Al Poplawsky, Rachel Clark; Moscow, ID

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter ID Palouse Region

Leading on climate change

Based on a recent poll conducted by the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication, by a 3-to-1 margin voters nationally are more likely to pick a candidate for office who supports strong policies to combat global warming.

A recent report conducted by the highly respected economic analysis firm Regional Economic Models, Inc., found that putting a gradually-increasing fee on carbon and returning the proceeds to the American people would be good for the economy, job growth and highly effective in reducing the carbon emissions that cause global warming.

These economic benefits were found to be particularly significant in states such as Idaho.

Idaho has essentially no fossil-fuel production but a large potential for cost-effective carbon-free energy production from solar, wind and geothermal. Using fossil fuels produced elsewhere draws wealth and vitality from our economy, while harnessing carbon-free energy sources locally creates wealth and new jobs.

In an interview that is part of the Showtime series "Years of Living Dangerously," Thomas Friedman asked Barack Obama this question: "What is the one thing you would still like to see us do to address climate change?"

The president answered, "Put a price on carbon."

The Republicans last week showed us that they are in disarray over ideological issues. The Democrats have a huge opportunity to demonstrate that they are still in business doing the people's work. Please support the proposed plank to put a price on carbon. The American people are calling out for leadership on this issue.

Al Poplawky and Rachel Clark

Moscow http://lmtribune.com/opinion/letters/article_7243cade-701f-5921-a8e3-52bf5da867d9.html

Moscow-Pullman Daily News

6/28/2014

Letter to Editor

Virginia Lohr, Pullman, WA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter ID Palouse Region

Letter: Carbon fee is a good idea

Posted: Saturday, June 28, 2014 1:00 am

Genevieve Briand's May 24 Letter to the Editor, "Is a carbon fee a good idea," responded to Robert Briggs's May 12 His View column about Citizens Climate Lobby's revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend proposal. She presented many interesting points focused on the economics of the proposal. I want to thank her for putting so much thought into this important issue.

Briand states that we need new technologies. A price on carbon will achieve this. It will decrease the cost of carbon-free energy by fostering both efficiencies of scale and technological innovations. In Spain and Germany market incentives have been used, and costs have decreased dramatically. In both countries, solar panels on commercial buildings now produce electricity at costs equivalent to conventional energy sources. And costs continue to drop.

An analysis released just this month by Regional Economic Models Inc. indicates the carbon fee and dividend proposal of Citizens Climate Lobby would add more than 2 million jobs to the economy in 10 years, while reducing carbon emissions by 33 percent. I encourage Briand and others to look at this study for more detailed information on the economics than I could ever provide. For a press release about the study and a link to the complete study, go to this shortened link: <http://goo.gl/eoxQvJ>.

Virginia Lohr

Pullman

http://dnews.com/opinion/article_c7a2d503-09e5-5cff-8c52-dc18be0f7b56.html

Richmond Times Dispatch

6/29/2014

Letter to Editor

Virginia Tyack- Richmond

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter VA Richmond

Editor, Times-Dispatch:

Tom Pyle, author of the Op/Ed column, "New federal rules on carbon do nothing but harm" represents the American Energy Alliance (AEA), which has received millions from groups linked to the Koch brothers, the Freedom Partners and American Encore. Pyle is on the boards of both the Institute for Energy Research and the AEA.

Pyle, the AEA, the Institute for Energy Research and other front organizations for the energy industry promote the status quo of current unsustainable, environmentally harmful fossil fuel energy consumption and oppose desperately needed alternatives. I hope readers recognize that this is merely a politically motivated, hugely profit-driven opinion and one that is not in the interests of citizens.

Pyle charges the president and the EPA with misinformation, while he shamelessly promotes the misinformation of the fossil fuel energy lobby.

Virginia Tyack. Richmond.

http://www.timesdispatch.com/opinion/your-opinion/letters-to-the-editor/letters-to-the-editor-cont-reaching-out-might-have-worked/article_2478f130-a538-5ba4-9f6e-a42347ac7045.html

The Fresno Bee

6/29/2014

Letter to Editor

Devin Carroll

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Fresno

Climate modeling works The climate-change denier machine has been spreading the idea that scientists "manipulated" temperature data to hide the "fact" that average world temperature was actually warmer in the 1930s. Suppose you wanted to know the average temperature of Europe in the 1700s but only had records from London and Rome. Would you blame scientists for using a model to estimate the temperatures of Moscow and Athens? Would that be some kind of "conspiracy"? This is the purpose of models that make 1930 data comparable to 2014 data. Climatology has improved immensely since even the 1970s, when computers and satellites were just coming into play. People don't realize how much more we know today. When scientists say that the climate is warming and models show the cause is the megatons of carbon dioxide we are emitting, they have the data to prove it. If the planet is not warming, why are the ice caps melting? These fabricated arguments paid for by the Koch brothers and their pals show the weakness and venality of their stand. It is time for everyone to pull together and do everything we can to slow the release of greenhouse gases. Devin Carroll Read more here:

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/06/28/4001705/climate-modeling-works.html#storylink=cpy>

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/06/28/4001705/climate-modeling-works.html>

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

6/29/2014

Letter to Editor

Tom Umhoefer

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter WI Madison

Action needed on climate change

In his commentary of June 13, Dale Olen describes a future in which Milwaukee and the Great Lakes might attract new residents from coastal states such as Florida as their communities become flooded by rising seas ("Milwaukee must prepare itself to be a water city," June 20).

Yet rising temperatures might also attract people to the Midwest. For instance, according to the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impact report, by 2055 Milwaukee could experience temperatures that southern Missouri sees today. By 2100, WICCI predicts Wisconsin could see the temperatures that Little Rock, Ark., has today.

So if we will be that hot, Arkansas and Texas will be much hotter. Populations could shift from the south back to the north in a reverse of the Rust Belt years of the '80s. Wisconsin could see more vacationers fleeing the boiling heat of the South for our relatively cooler weather.

These predictions will be much worse if we don't begin to reduce our carbon emissions soon. The Environmental Protection Agency regulations will help. Another big help will be a carbon fee and dividend that would encourage everyone to use energy more efficiently.

Readers should urge their senators and representatives to take action on climate change.

Tom Umhoefer

Stoughton

http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jsonline.com%2Fnews%2Fopinion%2Fyour-views-b99299921z1-264993581.html&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNFYcQ3Nb5bv_sOoYkyPSs1w71Mbgg

The Durango Herald

6/30/2014

Letter to Editor

Pete Kuntz, Lancaster, PA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter PA Lancaster

Swift Solution to Climate Change Exists

The June 26 Herald story, "Businesses in for a big hit," summarizes the Risky Business report that projects the crushing future costs to our economy if we don't make major carbon-emission cuts (more than the EPA regulations) to fight climate change very soon. Fortunately, as dire as the projections in the Risky Business report are, there's another new economic analysis that shows we have a way to address climate change effectively while adding 2.8 million net U.S. jobs and adding \$75-80 billion to our GDP annually, all without government regulations, if we act quickly.

The fear that cutting emissions would be a "job killer" is unwarranted. Here's the plan: A revenue-neutral carbon pollution fee paid by fossil fuels would be rebated directly to consumers, a monthly check in the mail, about \$400 per family. The carbon fee increases annually, making fossil fuels more and more expensive than solar and wind energy. People naturally choose to switch to cheaper clean energy. The market, not government regulations, makes the transition to renewable energy. Most people come out ahead or at least break even, especially low-income and middle-class households. Addressing climate change doesn't have to hurt the average consumer. A carbon fee would also be placed on imports from countries like China, depending on how high their CO2 emissions are, forcing them to go green to compete. Americans would get that money, too, and could buy U.S. products with it. This plan is a win-win, supported by most economists, Republicans and Democrats, including eight Nobel Prize winners.

The Citizens Climate Lobby website has more information on it. The key is getting Congress to pass it soon. The IPCC reports tell us we have just a 15-year window to make dramatic carbon-emissions reductions in order to avoid "catastrophic" climate change. The longer we delay action, the more climate disasters will cost us. Eventually, business-usual could mean climate change disasters would overwhelm us, causing the costs to spiral out of control. The solution is swift and decisive action by Congress.

Peter Kuntz

<http://www.durangoherald.com/article/20140630/OPINION03/140639964/>

Baltimore Sun

6/30/2014

Letter to Editor

Sabrina S. Fu, Ellicott City

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter MD Baltimore

Start a conversation on Capitol Hill

If you told me a few years ago that I would be spending my vacation days talking to Congress, I would have thought you were out of your mind. But I ended up on Capitol Hill recently, lobbying with 600 other Americans from all walks of life. We went to converse with our senators and congressmen and congresswomen on both side of the aisle. We told them what we were concerned about, offered a simple solution and asked them what they thought. We listened to them and conversed with them about meeting on common ground. It was a bit like a National Public Radio conversation.

As I worked with five different groups, I met Americans from many walks of life and from different faiths. At the end of the day, walking from the Cannon House Office Building to Union Station, we passed the Supreme Court with about 10 people in front of it. The rabbi walking with me asked me, "What's that?" I turned to what she was pointing to and said, "It's the Supreme Court." She said, "I know that. But what about the people in front of it." I had not noticed that the people in front had their mouths taped. The rabbi went to talk to those people.

After about five minutes, she came back to me and told me the group was praying that the Supreme Court would not allow abortion. I asked her what she said to them. The rabbi told me that she asked if they would pray for her grandson. He was just born a few months ago and she is concerned because of the havoc that would occur due to climate change in his lifetime. So they prayed together. The rabbi epitomized what we set out to do on Capitol Hill --observe, reach out and find common ground. For the sake of humanity, I hope more and more of us can do this now. I can only begin with myself.

Sabrina S. Fu, Ellicott City

http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2014-06-30/news/bs-ed-lobbying-letter-20140630_1_capitol-hill-rabbi-common-ground

Sacramento Bee

6/30/2014

Letter to Editor

Dana Nuccitelli, West Sacramento, CA

Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter CA Sacramento

Blunt rising gas prices with revenue neutrality

Re "Air rules may get painful at the pump" (Page A1, June 30): When a fee is applied to carbon pollution via a cap-and-trade system or tax, it's inevitable that energy costs will rise, and those costs will be passed on to the consumers. Hence, there's concern that California's carbon cap-and-trade system will cause gasoline prices to rise.

There's an easy way to address those concerns: revenue neutrality. Under a revenue-neutral carbon tax, 100 percent of the tax is returned to taxpayers through a monthly rebate check. Studies have shown that for two-thirds of Americans, that check would more than offset higher gasoline and energy costs. Most of our wallets would come out ahead.

If we could generate enough bipartisan support to pass a national revenue neutral carbon tax, it could replace California's cap-and-trade system. With this simple free market solution, rising gas prices would no longer be a concern.

-- Dana Nuccitelli, West Sacramento

<http://www.sacbee.com/2014/06/30/6522909/blunt-rising-gas-prices-with-revenue.html>

