

MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

Letter: Thank you, Idaho Democrats

Tuesday, July 1, 2014

Based on a recent poll conducted by the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication, its Director Anthony Leiserowitz reported that, by a ratio of 3-1, voters nationally are more likely to vote for a candidate for office who takes a position supporting strong policies to combat global warming.

A recent report conducted by a 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, good for 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 like Idaho. Idaho has essentially no fossil-fuel production but a large potential for cost-effective carbon-free energy production from solar, wind and geothermal. Paying for fossil fuels produced elsewhere draws wealth and vitality from our economy, while harnessing carbon-free energy sources here at home creates wealth and new jobs.

In an interview shown June 16 at the Kenworthy Theater as part of the Showtime series "Years of Living Dangerously," author 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 showed us June 14 that they are in disarray over ideological issues. The Democrats now have a huge opportunity to demonstrate that they are still in business doing the people's work. Thank you, Idaho Democrats, for committing "to taking proactive measures to prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change." The American people are calling out for leadership on this issue.

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