

MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

Letter: The courage to lead

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Larry Kirkland chides Devin Rokyta for his sources on the scientific consensus on human-caused global warming ("Parrotting propaganda," July 4). It appears that Rokyta has done his homework.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, one of the larger and more prestigious scientific societies, states "about 97 percent of climate scientists have concluded that human-caused climate change is happening." (<http://whatwewknow.aaas.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/AAAS-What-We-Know.pdf>) AAAS's multiple references for the 97 percent figure appear impeccable.

Kirkland touts a patented technology that uses solar energy to pull CO2 from the air to produce fuel. Every new climate-friendly energy technology faces

an enormous barrier - the free ride from pollution consequences fossil fuels enjoy. England's most prominent economist, Sir Nicholas Stern, calls this "the greatest market failure the world has ever seen."

Rokyta noted in his June 12 editorial that the market-based proposal championed by Citizens' Climate Lobby was promising, yet misinformation prevents the consensus necessary to move forward. The proposal would put a gradually rising fee on carbon and return 100 percent of the proceeds to American taxpayers.

A highly credible new report from Regional Economic Models Inc. found that, particularly in states like Idaho and Washington with essentially no fossil-fuel production, a revenue-neutral fee on carbon would be good for the

economy and job growth while rapidly reducing carbon emissions. We sit on a gold mine of carbon-free energy from hydroelectricity, geothermal, wind and solar. Let's keep the money at home.

We need to encourage our own leaders like U.S. Reps. Cathy McMorris Rogers, R-Wash., and Raul Labrador, R-Idaho, and U.S. Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch, both R-Idaho, to take a fresh look at the win-win solutions available through market-based policies to mitigate the risks from global warming. There'll be a special place in history for conservatives with the courage to lead on this.

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