

# MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

## Letter: Act now to reduce global warming

Friday, January 9, 2015

In his Dec. 26 letter, Larry Kirkland agreed " that global warming has occurred," but he wasn't convinced it warranted "massive new powers" for government. There is a simple way to reduce global warming without government interference. It's Citizens' Climate Lobby's revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend proposal, see [citizensclimatelobby.org](http://citizensclimatelobby.org).

"Revenue-neutral" means government would not make or lose money by implementing this legislation. A slowly increasing "carbon fee" on fossil fuels would internalize the social costs of carbon, giving companies clear market signals about the need to modify operations. New technologies would be encouraged as the price of these

alternatives dropped relative to fossil fuels. Government would not pick winners, the market would.

Money raised by the carbon fee would be distributed to households as monthly "dividends," injecting money into the economy and enabling choices about energy use. No money would go into government coffers.

If the global warming trend is real, it is prudent to act now. If there is even a small chance that the scientists and military strategists saying that global warming will be devastating are correct, then we should address the risks immediately. We should not wait for more evidence when

the costs of further delay could be astronomical.

If you lived downstream of a dam, saw a crack in it and then saw the crack seeping water, would you wait until the crack grew larger before deciding to repair it or move to a different location?

The carbon fee and dividend proposal is a win-win solution. Regional Economic Models Inc. showed it would add more than 2 million jobs to the economy in 10 years, while reducing carbon emissions by 33 percent. For more information locally, go to Palouse Region Chapter-Citizens' Climate Lobby, [cclpalouse.org](http://cclpalouse.org).

**Virginia Lohr**  
Pullman