

MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

Letter: Carbon fee reduces pollution

Friday, April 10, 2015

I appreciate Varnel Williams taking time to study Citizens Climate Lobby's carbon fee and dividend proposal. His April 6 Letter to the Editor rightly states it places a rising fee on carbon. This is the market signal that companies, including Shell, prefer over regulations dictating how to reduce emissions, leaving no room for industrial innovation. The proposed fee is predictable, transparent and universal. It starts low and rises slowly, so businesses can adapt to the new conditions. In fact, Shell already makes decisions assuming an even higher fee will eventually be implemented; this suggests adapting to the CCL proposal would cause minimal disruptions to businesses.

Williams denigrated the proposal for including "regulations setting forth CO2 equivalent fees for other greenhouse gases." He focused on the word "regulations" and overlooked the meaning of the statement. These would not regulate how companies reduce emissions, but would ensure all greenhouse gases are treated similarly to carbon dioxide. These would impose fees for wastes (greenhouse gases) that companies currently dump into our air for free. These fees are similar to us paying for garbage pick-up.

The CCL proposal returns 100 percent of the money raised from the fees to Americans, allowing them to afford more efficient

products, such as solar panels or electric cars. Consumers are able to make purchasing decisions that reflect the full production costs, including costs from pollution.

I hope Williams will now study the economic analysis of the CCL proposal by Regional Economic Models Inc. He will discover more than 2 million jobs will be added to the economy in 10 years, while carbon emissions are reduced by 33 percent. He will also learn about additional benefits of this innovative, nonpartisan solution to pollution, including that 13,000 lives would be saved each year from reduced air pollution alone.

Virginia Lohr
Pullman