

MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

Letter: Far greater benefits

Tuesday, August 18, 2015

Lee Rozen (Our View, Aug. 6) states that a revenue neutral, carbon fee and dividend plan (Citizens Climate Lobby) is a better solution to carbon pollution and global warming than the Obama Clean Power Plan, which will require reductions in power plant emissions. He notes that placing a fee on carbon at the source, with the return of this money as a dividend to every household in the country, would require far less bureaucracy than power plant regulations and additionally would make use of the free market to stimulate the economy.

The increased price of carbon-based fuels and products would discourage their use and stimulate the free market to

develop alternatives. The highly respected Regional Economic Models Inc. study estimates that 2/3 of households would actually benefit financially from this plan.

However the CCL's carbon fee and dividend plan is superior to regulation in many other ways, also. Fee and dividend would address all sources of carbon pollution, not just power plant emissions. Fee and dividend would provide 2 million to 3 million new American jobs by 2030 compared to "tens of thousands" for regulations. Fee and dividend would prevent 13,000 premature U.S. deaths per year due to non-carbon pollution from dirty energy production, whereas regulation would prevent just 3,600 deaths.

In addition to providing U.S. carbon emission reductions of 52 percent from current levels by 2035, fee and dividend would also add \$70 billion to \$90 billion to the annual U.S. GDP and increase real per capita income by \$800.

Fee and dividend would be better than regulations for protecting our health, stimulating the economy and reducing carbon pollution. It's high time for Congress to show the president that a market-based carbon fee and dividend will have far greater benefits to our country - and the planet - than increased regulation.

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