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Letter: No time to waste

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I commend President Barack Obama for taking historic action on climate change with the Clean Power Plan.

However, it is not enough.

Most unfortunately, climate change has become wrapped up in political party ideology, making effective implementation of the Clean Power Plan very difficult and contentious. Opponents already threaten to sue and are even encouraging states not to comply with the new rules.

We need a simple, fast and effective solution that both parties can get behind. The

Citizens' Climate Lobby, including an active chapter on the Palouse, is advocating revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend legislation that seems to meet these criteria.

This plan places a steadily rising fee on the carbon content of fossil fuels to be paid by coal, oil and gas companies. One hundred percent of the proceeds from this carbon fee are distributed equally back to every American.

The carbon fee will raise the price of carbon-based fuels and products. Thus, households will naturally choose to spend their dividend checks on cheaper,

greener energy sources and products.

A carbon fee and dividend would reduce carbon emissions by 50 percent below 1990 levels during the next 20 years plus add 2.8 million jobs to the economy (study by Regional Economic Models, Inc.).

Endless arguing between Republicans and Democrats has pushed us beyond the 11th hour for climate change. There is no more time to waste. Let's mobilize to create the political will for a livable world.

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