

## Organization sees hope for combating climate change

By Josh Babcock, Daily News staff writer | Posted: Thursday, November 12, 2015 12:00 am

So often talks revolve around climate change, but at the League of Women Voters of Moscow meeting Wednesday at the 1912 Center, it was all about "Climate Hope."

The presentation, prepared by Mary DuPree, president of the Palouse Regional Chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, an organization founded in 2007 with 298 active chapters worldwide, focused on national policies to address climate change.

DuPree, also a retired music professor from the University of Idaho, told the packed room about the CCL's revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend Proposal, a plan to tax carbon-emitting businesses until a stable climate is achieved or the effects of climate change are halted.

She said she became concerned about climate change in the 1970s when she attended college.

"I figured the people who really know how to do things are going to take care of us," she said.

During the following years DuPree was more environmentally friendly and began donating to groups like the Environmental Defense Fund and the Natural Resources Defense Council, but it wasn't enough, she said.

DuPree said she began to doubt if climate change would be addressed as the years passed and the problems worsened.

"My hopes were dashed that there would be positive action by people who knew how to make change," DuPree said.

Now, in collaboration with the CCL, DuPree said she believes she and the group have an answer: the Carbon Fee and Dividend Proposal.

DuPree said the proposal is a gradual rising fee on carbon-emitting businesses. She said the proposal looks to charge carbon-emitting businesses in the United States \$15 per ton of carbon-dioxide emitted. That charge would increase \$10 per ton annually, until climate change effects begin to decline and the climate becomes more stable. DuPree said a stable environment would mean keeping the effects of global warming at less than 2 degrees Fahrenheit.

DuPree said the fee forces industry to make a change and reduce carbon emissions, or pay up for contributing to climate change and global warming.

DuPree said the accumulated fees would be distributed monthly to American households, which is where the "dividend" part of the proposal

comes into play, she said. Those payments would be administered through the Internal Revenue Service, she said.

To level the international playing field, she said, a border tariff would protect domestic industry from businesses in unregulated countries.

Any business importing carbon products into the country that is not taxed for carbon emissions in their home nation would be taxed on the same scale as those corporations in the U.S., DuPree said.

"We are encouraging other countries to enact a carbon tax as well," DuPree said.

A model developed by the CCL predicts the Carbon Fee and Dividend Proposal, if enacted, would reduce carbon emissions will by 50 percent by 2035.

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