

A note on word choice for 'carbon tax'

Thank you for Steven Kreimendal's fine article dealing with the different reactions the public tends to have when hearing the term "climate change" versus the term "global warming." But it is not too surprising that simple word choices can trigger positive or negative reactions.

For example, the phrase "carbon tax" is typically met with anger about government overreach, or fear about rising energy prices. However, imagine if instead it were called a "carbon stimulus package." The public, businesses and the unemployed would probably listen to a carbon stimulus proposal, and support it. Whereas if we call it a carbon tax they would reject it without listening to the details.

How can a carbon tax be a stimulus package? Because a study released this week by REMI (Regional Economic Models Inc) indicates that a national carbon tax that is paid by fossil fuel companies and fully rebated to the public via pro rata checks to households would stimulate the economy. It would create more than 2 million jobs within 10 years. To top it off, it would improve our health and stabilize the climate.

Readers should please urge Senators Mark Udall and Michael Bennet and Rep. Jared Polis to review REMI's study and support a carbon stimulus package. That way we'll stimulate the economy while we fight climate change or global warming, or whatever you call it.

Judy Weiss/Brookline, Mass.

<http://npaper-wehaa.com/boulder-weekly/2014/06/19/#?article=2261437>