

All can support carbon tax

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I loved Jasper Craven's article about Rep. Peter Welch sponsoring legislation with different Republicans. As Welch summed up his methodology, "You treat them with respect, you try and focus on the common ground."

This is Citizens' Climate Lobby's methodology. CCL is an organization of volunteers lobbying Congress for legislation to stabilize the climate. When we meet members of Congress we offer words of appreciation, express gratitude and discuss our concerns with respect. Thus we form relationships with members of Congress while seeking global warming legislation.

Right now 600 CCL members are in Washington for our annual international conference. We hope to garner support for a revenue-neutral carbon tax. We'll talk with senators and representatives on both sides of the aisle.

We'll ask Republicans to sponsor carbon tax legislation, even if they are undecided on global warming. A carbon tax is a market-based solution to the market failure allowing businesses and people to emit soot for free while other folks suffer the consequences of the soot (especially lung diseases). Allowing some people to benefit at the cost of others because fossil fuel prices do not reflect their true costs flies in the face of conservative economic principles. Since carbon taxes tax what we don't want (pollution/soot) instead of things we want (income), conservatives can support it even if agnostic about climate change.

We'll also ask Democrats to support carbon tax legislation instead of regulations or cap and trade, urging them to agree to a revenue-neutral carbon tax, rebated entirely to households. Fully rebated carbon taxes won't slow the economy. In fact, economic growth would result, creating 2 million more jobs than would be created without a carbon tax (see REMI's study).

Democrats or Republicans: "It's a long, long road. ... We'll get there ... so on we go."

Rabbi Judy Weiss

Brookline, Mass.

<http://www.timesargus.com/article/20140626/OPINION02/706269939>