

Another way to lobby on climate change issue

To the editor:

Thank you for publishing Dr. Marty Nathan's guest column (Jan. 16, "Must needed change be palatable?") which rues the fact that some people think a "program for change to prevent climate disaster needs to be inexpensive and palatable enough to be acceptable." In the best of all possible worlds, everyone would want to do the right thing no matter the cost or how hard it is to accomplish.

But we live in the real world, and sometimes "a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down." Instead of blaming the system, I urge Dr. Nathan to join Citizens' Climate Lobby as we empower citizens to lobby Congress for climate change medicine (a gradually rising carbon emissions fee payable by fossil fuel companies) that is taken with a spoonful of sugar (a rebate of the revenue to households).

Rebating the revenue will prevent economic hardship to low- and middle-income households and it'll make the legislation politically feasible for Congressional Republicans to support. They can support a rebated national carbon emissions fee even if they've promised not to raise government revenues because the rebate means it won't raise revenues, nor stall the economy nor kill jobs. They can even support it if their constituents are uncertain about climate change because studies show it'll save tens of thousands of lives and lower medical costs.

In the real world, we must humbly talk to people where they are. Religious leaders, from the most fundamentalist denominations to the most liberal denominations, know this. I urge Gazette readers to join Citizens Climate Lobby and help us create the political will so Congress passes a rebated carbon emissions fee before the Paris climate summit.

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