

## **Another way to protect against climate change**

Posted: Sunday, December 21, 2014 8:00 pm

To the editor:

Kudos to Salem officials for identifying strategies to protect the city from floods due to rising seas, that are caused by global warming, that result from carbon emissions from burning fossil fuels. However, their plans remind me of an ancient Jewish story.

A group travels in a wooden boat on the open seas. When one man starts drilling a hole in the boat directly under his seat, the other passengers become alarmed for their safety and protest. The man replies, “Why does it bother you? I’m only drilling under my seat.”

Like the boat passengers, city officials should protest against other cities nationwide that continue to burn coal. The use of coal effectively drills holes in Salem’s flood walls, defeats your tide gates and pumps, and crushes your drainage systems.

Salem officials and readers would best protect the city by lobbying for a national carbon tax. A gradually increasing carbon pollution fee paid by fossil-fuel producers will raise the cost of fossil fuels, encouraging all cities and states to stop building fossil-fuel infrastructure and rapidly deploy renewable energy.

A grassroots organization with chapters in almost every congressional district is lobbying for carbon tax legislation. We have a new group in Salem. We want you to join us and to urge friends in key states (New Hampshire, Ohio, Florida and Kentucky) to join us, too.

When Salem officials endorse a Massachusetts carbon tax and urge Congress to pass a national tax, too, they will truly be protecting their city.

United we stand dry!

Judy Weiss

[LINK](#)