

Backs carbon fee

Editor: Kudos for The Times-Tribune editorial (“Drought’s human flood,” Sept. 9) on how a drought, intensified by climate change, combined with governmental failure to provide adequate policies to stabilize the situation, eventually led to 2 million refugees fleeing civil war and terrorism.

The editorial reminded me of London School of Economics professor Nicholas Stern’s book, “Why Are We Waiting?” which dealt with governmental policies needed to cut carbon emissions quickly and avert the worst effects of climate change. Stern wrote: “The policies, together with relevant institutions, should not only be well-designed from the perspective of incentives, equity and feasibility, but they should also be stable and credible so that they provide long-term reliable signals to investors and entrepreneurs, thereby stimulating investment, growth, efficiency, and innovation ... This will be a transformation driven by private-sector investment from the small farm or firm to the big company. But it will be government policy, including its stability and credibility, that frames the environment for that investment and sets out a range of pricing and regulatory instruments to encourage the low-carbon transition.”

When the Environmental Protection Agency issues regulations, Congress threatens to defund the agency. Congress sometimes renews credits for wind and solar and sometimes doesn’t. Does it sound stable and credible?

While EPA regs are a good start, they’re not enough. To cut emissions adequately, we need a national economy-wide, market-based carbon fee to give reliable signals to investors and entrepreneurs.

Please contact Sen. Pat Toomey and urge him to introduce Republican-sponsored carbon fee legislation to fix the market pricing of carbon fuels. Stable governmental climate policy begets a stable climate and a stable society.

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