

Weiss: Benefits of a carbon tax

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Thank you for publishing Dave Doucette's letter on climate change, deniers denying the facts, and the need for a carbon tax (Jan. 12). However, Doucette omitted from his discussion of carbon taxes a couple critical details. First, the main benefit of a carbon tax is that it motivates investments in clean energy projects because they become competitive with fossil fuel projects. Extra investment brings more clean energy to consumers faster and cheaper. Second, a carbon tax with border adjustments would apply to imports into our country from countries with no carbon tax. Our manufacturers would be protected from a competitive disadvantage, and foreign countries would be motivated to enact their own carbon tax to avoid having to pay a U.S. border tax.

Finally, regulations involve government designing standards and imposing the choices. However, a carbon tax pushes businesses to find their own preferred solutions to avoid rising prices due to carbon tax. This freedom allows for greater creativity and resourcefulness to lower emissions.

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