

Brunson misrepresented Citizens' Climate Lobby

To the editor:

I was sorry to read Mr. Brunson's letter disparaging Citizens' Climate Lobby's volunteers who strive to enable Congress to enact legislation that can cut emissions more efficiently than EPA regulations.

I was sorry because, with his series of rhetorical questions, and refrain of "what do they mean," he created fear that CCL has sinister, or worse, futile goals. His conclusion portrayed CCL as a well-trained army of unstoppable automatons spreading propaganda.

CCL volunteers are not automatons spreading propaganda. We may say whatever we want as long as we're respectful. We're not programmed to repeat set messages. Actually, we're encouraged to express our ideas in our own words in order to develop honest relationships with readers, editors, and politicians.

I'm free to write to West Virginia newspapers, and argue that their congressional delegation does their state a disservice by not sponsoring a carbon tax with part (but not all) of the revenue rebated to the public.

Why? A carbon tax won't harm coal communities more than EPA regulations, but a carbon tax will raise trillions. If WV's Senators Manchin and Capito could consider a new way to deal with coal's contraction and eventual demise, they would support a carbon tax, and negotiate for a tiny part of the revenue to fund new WV businesses to replace their dying coal industry. My letters to WV papers acknowledge that no legislative proposal passes through Congress without negotiations and alterations. If Manchin and Capito open their hearts to coal workers, they'll take the political risk of supporting CCL's proposal, and insist some revenues help coal communities.

Utah's Senators Hatch and Lee also need not automatically deny that we must transition to a low-carbon economy. If they could accept that they serve their constituents during a time of climatic, technological and economic change, then they could help minimize the chaos we experience. A carbon tax's purpose is to help our economy transition to low-carbon energy in an orderly process. Exxon tells Congress that they need a carbon tax — they know we must transition, and they believe carbon taxation will minimize chaos.

CCL volunteers also want no economic chaos now, and no climatic chaos in the future.

Decades ago, as our need for coal grew, coal workers struggled for rights against mine owners, armed thugs, and political hacks. That era witnessed chaos and pain. Today, the struggle is different because oil supplanted coal, and low-carbon energy will soon replace oil.

What hasn't change? The little guys are still getting short changed, and the public is afraid. The public should consider: which side is their government on?

This year, please fearlessly only vote for candidates who are on your side, the climate's side, and your children's side.

Rabbi Judy Weiss

Brookline, MA

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