

## **Letter: Carbon tax addresses emissions equitably**

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At the Connecting for Change conference, climate expert James Hansen extolled carbon taxes as the best way to reduce emissions. Carbon taxes will also encourage more private investment in renewables because investors are hesitant to invest while congressional action is uncertain. This should appeal to conservatives who dislike government investing in high-tech ventures that might fail. Private investors invest more successfully.

Also, conservatives hate EPA regulations that are expensive to implement and inefficiently only target one industry at a time. Carbon taxes fairly affect the whole economy's emissions simultaneously.

Conservatives also object to reducing U.S. emissions without international emissions reductions. Carbon taxes with border adjustments will impel nations exporting products to the U.S. to pay US carbon taxes or enact their own, thus impacting foreign emissions.

Finally, without a carbon tax, the president will use EPA regulations to lower emissions but prices will rise. A carbon tax also increases prices, but revenue collected can be rebated to households via dividend checks or be offset by lowering income tax rates.

Hansen endorses Citizens Climate Lobby's approach to carbon tax legislation.

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Boston chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby

<http://www.southcoasttoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20131029/OPINION/310290302&template=wapart>