

YOUR VIEW:

Letters to the editor

Carbon tax could help New Yorkers

Amy Neff Roth's article covered the first meeting of Citizens' Climate Lobby's Utica chapter. The local chapter seeks to convince Rep. Richard Hanna of the wisdom of carbon tax legislation.

It is terrific that Hanna is already concerned about climate change and the effects of policy decisions on his region's economy. For five years, New York has been lowering emissions through the Northeast's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Yet other states have not lowered their emissions. Their pollution hurts our air and water, and contributes to climate change. Is this why we have so many destructive and expensive storms and floods? How unfair is this to our residents and businesses?

If Hanna cares about fairness for his constituents, he'll consider legislative measures to address climate change via a carbon tax. Why? EPA proposals will be tied up in court, delaying implementation and allowing other states to pollute without restraint for longer. Bipartisan Congressional legislation would avoid court delays that hurt the Northeast.

Also a carbon tax, rebated to the public, would shield lower and middle income families from energy price increases. It will allow businesses and investors to plan with more certainty than the regulations allow.

Fair is fair.

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