

## **Carbon tax will help lower emissions**

Thanks for publishing John Ferro's informative article, which highlighted a recent National Academy of Sciences booklet, titled "Climate Change: Evidence and Causes." (["Out There: Climate change is for real"](#) March 9).

Regarding tipping points, he summarized the report's comments incompletely. Ferro said, "The report also states that concerns about major tipping points . . . are unfounded."

However, the report said, "Results from the best available climate models do not predict abrupt changes in such systems (often referred to as tipping points) in the near future. However, as warming increases, the possibilities of major abrupt change cannot be ruled out."

The report says that if emissions continue unabated, we'll see warming of approximately 4 degrees centigrade this century. The international community agreed to reduce emissions to keep warming below 2 degrees because anything above that could lead to dangerous circumstances.

If emissions aren't reduced significantly, we'll see more than 2 degree warming this century and also dangerous tipping points (like the melting of Greenland which is accelerating and will lead to 20 or so sea level rise).

The most effective, efficient, inexpensive way to lower emissions is for Congress to enact a revenue-neutral carbon tax with border adjustments. The border adjustments will motivate other nations to enact their own carbon tax, and revenue-neutral means off-setting rebates of the tax will protect consumers.

Such a tax will motivate utility companies to stop building coal, oil and natural gas power plants, and will encourage private investors to funnel resources into clean energy projects.

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<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20140404/OPINION02/304040018/Letters-to-the-editor-4-4>