

Letter: Carbon tax will make a freer market

November 08, 2013 - 12:00 AM
Carbon tax will make a freer market

Thanks for Ariel Wittenberg's article ("Panelists: Political stability key to offshore wind," Nov. 6). However, it was galling to read in the article that Republicans object to renewable energy tax credits because "it gives renewable energy unfair advantages on what is supposed to be a free market."

The article should have reminded readers that Republicans don't object to special oil and gas tax deductions that give fossil fuel producers unfair advantages in our free market. Furthermore, Republicans don't object to ways in which the free market is out of balance and not working properly. Specifically, since fossil fuels users are allowed to emit into the air pollution for free, taxpayers subsidize the use of fossil fuels every time the government fights a wildfire, cleans up after a flood or helps people in coastal areas rebuild after an extreme weather event.

The free market won't be free of bias in favor of fossil fuels until Republicans are willing to support a tax on the carbon pollution that those fuels emit. Once a carbon tax is enacted, the free market will work fine, and the wind industry won't need its own tax credit to counter the flaws currently in our system.

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