

Letter: Carbon tax would help economy

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Posted Jun. 19, 2014 @ 4:02 pm

Thank you for your terrific editorial on how Massachusetts and our New England neighbors are ahead of the pack on reducing emissions because we got an early start.

In fact, a recent study by REMI (Regional Economic Models Inc.) analyzed the effects of a carbon tax that starts low and gradually increases. For the first 10 years, electricity prices will increase, but around year 10, prices will drop precipitously because plenty of alternative energy will come on line.

This is why most carbon tax proposals suggest collecting the tax from fossil fuel producers and rebating it to households. Individuals can use the rebates to pay their higher utility bills during those first 10 years, or they can improve energy efficiency and switch to cleaner energy using the rebates and then watch their utility costs decrease.

In addition, you discuss "those who say reducing carbon emissions will hurt the economy." The REMI study shows that a carbon tax will cause the economy to boom and jobs to increase by roughly 2 million nationwide.

Two million jobs and the elimination of harmful emissions are not just little waves to surf; it is a giant tsunami.

Judy Weiss

Brookline

Volunteer member of Citizens' Climate Lobby

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