

Letters to the Editor - Feb. 21, 2014

Climate kudos

To the editor: Kudos to Durham for being selected to be one of seven regional centers for helping agriculture adapt to climate change. It is certainly true that climate change “is playing out very differently in different regions across the nation,” so we need region-specific approaches to help agriculture adapt.

However, at its heart, climate change is “a global and national problem” that requires a unified emissions reduction program to prevent global warming from reaching 4 degrees Celsius (7.2 degrees Fahrenheit) this century. We already can see that national governments are not doing enough emissions reductions to limit warming to the 2 degrees Celsius mark agreed on, but 4 degrees would be catastrophic.

Just as Durham is ideally positioned to lead our region agriculturally, so is New Hampshire ideally positioned to lead our nation and the world toward an effective and equitable emissions reduction plan. Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Kelly Ayotte should co-sponsor bipartisan climate change legislation to charge fossil fuel companies a pollution tax and return the proceeds to the public either via rebate checks or lower income tax rates.

A carbon pollution tax also applied to imports from countries without a such a tax would motivate other countries to enact their own carbon pollution tax.

Readers should urge their senators to take the lead on this global and national problem.

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