

Monday's letters:

Friday, February 28, 2014 3:12pm

Educate public on climate

Thanks for publishing Edward Renner's article on John Kerry's recent climate change lecture to Indonesians. Renner is both right, and wrong.

He is right that no developing nation will attempt to tackle climate change until the United States does. In fact, developed nations have tried to tackle climate change without the United States, and their efforts have failed primarily because economics requires that this be a unified global effort so those reducing emissions by charging a price for carbon emissions do not face unfair competition from those still polluting for free.

Yes, the United States must lead on climate action.

But Renner is also wrong because the more Kerry talks about climate change, the better. As secretary of state, Kerry will have many opportunities to speak about the issue overseas, and that is good because foreign nations must hear that we care and that our secretary of state thinks our Congress must act. Perhaps what we need is for all members of the Cabinet to go on speaking tours throughout the United States speaking about climate change.

And the chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers should do a speaking tour explaining why a revenue-neutral carbon tax, with border adjustments, is the best policy to slow climate change. There is no excuse in 2014 for people to be ignorant about the dangers we face, and there is no excuse for Congress' inaction to continue.

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