

Evaluating Rex Tillerson for secretary of state

The Dec. 15 news article [“Tillerson suggests engineering could help manage climate”](#) should have discussed Rex Tillerson’s frequent mention of a national carbon tax. Mr. Tillerson, President-elect Donald Trump’s nominee for secretary of state, [told an Oil and Money conference in October](#) that a carbon tax “would ensure a uniform and predictable cost of carbon across the economy. It would allow market forces to drive solutions.”

Mr. Tillerson’s comments indicate that climate change is essentially an economic problem. Our economy allows free carbon emissions, thereby undervaluing investment in engineering solutions and preventing consumers and investors from properly assessing the true costs of their energy choices. Only Congress can fix this economic problem. When it does, we’ll see engineering innovations, efficiency enthusiasm and cleaner energy decisions.

I hope Mr. Tillerson lectures Congress on how to structure a carbon tax. It could help environmentalists trust him as a Cabinet member and would help him fill the shoes of President Ronald Reagan’s secretary of state, George P. Shultz, [who also advocates](#) for a national, revenue-neutral carbon tax.

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