

## Exxon hid climate facts

The Herald editorial rightly asserts that free speech is essential to public policy debates, but then ignores climate policies and Exxon's actions ("Healey's Exxon jihad," June 27).

It is the spreading of misinformation about climate facts that has Exxon in trouble. For example, Exxon's former CEO Lee Raymond said in 1997 that climate models were faulty, in a bid to delay public understanding and prevent free, open policy discussions.

But in the early 1980s Exxon's scientists wrote: "The consensus is that a doubling of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) from its pre-industrial revolution value would result in an average global temperature rise" of two to three degrees Centigrade. These projections are almost identical to today's.

Exxon scientists also said, in the 1980s, that there is "unanimous agreement in the scientific community that a temperature increase of this magnitude would bring about significant changes in the earth's climate." And, we're already witnessing warming temperatures, extreme rainfalls and biosphere disturbances.

As noted by the editorial, Exxon now supports a carbon tax. Ultimately, this would be far better than new U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

— Judy Weiss, Brookline

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