

Get Congress to push carbon tax through lawmaking pipeline

Charging a fee to companies that produce large amounts of carbon in the air would be a way to help clean our environment. *(Dan Kitwood/Getty Images, file photo)*

By [Times of Trenton Letters to the Editor](#)

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Thanks to The Times of Trenton for publishing Mark Reynolds' guest op-ed "The Keystone XL veto: You want jobs? Give this plan a try" (Feb. 26). Mr. Reynolds nixes the Keystone XL pipeline as a good jobs creator and supports a rebated carbon tax that would create more permanent full-time jobs per year for decades than Keystone XL would create in total over its entire life.

Yet, we know the issue isn't about jobs: A carbon tax is needed to create a level playing field for all energy sources so utility companies, state legislatures and governors don't immediately pursue plans to build another pipeline.

Residents are piping up and demanding more renewable energy options, but renewables aren't developing as fast as we want, because the energy playing field isn't level: Fossil fuel producers don't pay a carbon emissions fee for the emissions their products cause.

Right now, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont residents are yelling about several new pipeline and compressor station proposals; residents of New York and New Jersey are protesting various pipelines; Wisconsin residents are fighting a tar sands pipeline bigger than the Keystone XL; and Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina residents are pumped up over more natural gas pipelines.

It's time to stop fighting local battles and take one big message to Congress: We want to receive carbon tax dividends and we

want fossil fuel companies to pay their fair share of carbon taxes.

I say: Congress, please put that in your pipe and smoke it.
-- *Rabbi Judy Weiss,*
Brookline, Mass.

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