

In response to John McClaughry

Bennington Banner

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John McClaughry wrote a fairly snarky column (Dec. 23) describing a proposal for a Vermont carbon tax. He hints that there are doubts that carbon dioxide emissions from humanity's use of fossil fuels are causing serious climate change, and he claims there are no benefits to Vermont's carbon tax proposal. What he didn't tell you is that he works for an organization that is part of the State Policy Network. This is a network of so-called think tanks that promote the political agenda of wealthy fossil fuel industrialists. These fossil fuel tycoons provide heavy funding for the State Policy Network. They want to undermine efforts to enact carbon taxes because their fossil fuel companies will suffer when states pass carbon taxes and fossil fuel use declines.

These fossil fuel tycoons don't care about climate change and severe weather events. Their money can protect them. Who will protect you if you, your homes or your other property get washed away in extraordinary floods like Vermont experienced in 2011?

These fossil fuel tycoons know a national carbon tax will cut fossil fuel use drastically, and lower emissions will reduce climate change dangers. Once enough states pass carbon taxes, Congress will agree to pass a national one too.

If they prevent carbon taxes, you'll lose. The best way to protect your homes and families is by urging Congress enact a carbon tax. Please contact friends and family members living in states with Republican legislators and ask them to urge their members of Congress to support a national carbon tax that is rebated to the public.

Tell them, for more information, they should contact Citizens' Climate Lobby, an organization of volunteers lobbying for carbon fee and rebate legislation to stabilize the climate.

Judy Weiss, volunteer member of CCL, Brookline, Mass.