

Friday, August 29, 2014

## **Letter: Kudos to Manchin for climate change meeting**

Editor:

Thank you for Ken Ward's summary of the meeting between Senators Joe Manchin and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.). If a senator from coal country can meet and discuss openly climate change and energy issues with a senator from a coastal state, there is hope we will see legislation soon to curb emissions and fight climate change.

Indeed, Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) introduced bipartisan legislation that will lead to the reduction of certain pollutants (HFCs, black carbon and methane) that are more powerful than carbon dioxide, and are particularly harmful in the short term.

If Sen. Manchin wants to be sure climate action is effective, fair to his region and helps all Americans transition to a low-emissions economy with as little economic hardship as possible, he could investigate the economic benefits of carbon tax legislation. By rebating carbon tax collections to households, this system shields homeowners and consumers from energy price increases. By charging a border tax on all imports from countries that do not limit emissions, carbon tax legislation can prevent "carbon leakage" and promote world cooperation in our efforts to fight global warming.

Kudos to Sen. Manchin for the important step he made talking publicly with Sen. Whitehouse. I hope Manchin takes the next step to either co-sponsor the Collins-Murphy bill, or consider the vast economic benefits of a rebated carbon tax and introduce this latter legislation into the Senate with a Republican co-sponsor.

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