

Lower emissions with a carbon tax

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Thanks for Brian Nearing's article explaining why a slowdown in global temperatures doesn't disprove anthropogenic climate change ("Local scientist warns about ocean's heat," April 17). Nearing's article highlighted the difference between how scientists think and how deniers and "climate skeptics" think.

Deniers and "climate skeptics" cherry-pick data to disprove warming. They claim a short-term slowdown in temperatures is proof there's no long-term warming.

In contrast, scientists are curious. They don't cite a few data points as proof; they consider data to be a puzzle. Puzzling data makes scientists ask: Given continued emissions, given physics, given what physics says about emissions' effects on climate, and given that other warming indicators continued (ice sheet mass decline, decadal average temperatures increasing), what could explain the slowdown? They found deep waters in the Pacific Ocean have been absorbing global temperature increases. Deniers don't expect to win a science debate. They just want to delay action.

Stanford University recently released a poll indicating that two-thirds of Americans would support a carbon tax if it were rebated to the public. Deniers have delayed us long enough. Americans want action. A carbon tax is the best way to lower emissions. Americans will accept a carbon tax if they get rebates.

In June, Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteers will ask Congress to enact a rebated carbon tax. We hope more people will join us.

Judy Weiss

Brookline, Mass.

Member, Citizens' Climate Lobby; co-leader, Boston chapter

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