

New York should support carbon emissions fees

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Kudos to Gov. Andrew Cuomo for banning fracking in New York state based on studies of fracking's health consequences, and kudos to the Times Union's editorial urging him to bring safer industries to economically struggling areas ("The right fracking decision," Dec. 21).

Even as the Times Union's editorial board was preparing that editorial, California reported some energy needs can be met better by increasing energy-storage than by building more natural gas plants.

How can readers ensure clean energy businesses thrive and carbon emitting fossil fuels are phased out? They should urge their congressional representatives and senators to support a system to charge a fee for carbon emissions. If Congress charges people who pollute our atmosphere, inventors, investors and utilities will rush to develop newer and cleaner technologies allowing us to pollute less.

New battery and storage plants are being built in California, Nevada, Illinois and Texas. Why not in New York state, too?

I already buy 100 percent, fixed-rate wind electricity that is supplied to my Massachusetts utility company by an electricity generator in New York state. Imagine how better storage would improve the state's wind-electricity generation business and would relieve the current demand for more natural gas electricity in New England.

Representatives Paul Tonko, D-Amsterdam, and Christopher Gibson, R-Kinderhook, need to be encouraged to co-sponsor with my representative, Joseph Kennedy III, D-Brookline, bipartisan carbon emissions fee legislation and rebate all revenues to the public.

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