

Letter: Next step: a carbon tax

For the Monitor

Sunday, October 20, 2013

Re “Shaheen’s energy legislation should appeal to everyone” (Monitor Opinion page, Oct. 10):

Elizabeth Hager is right. Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Rob Portman have written a common-sense bill to increase energy efficiency and reduce emissions that everyone should find very easy to support. When fighting climate change, it is important to pass the easy legislation (grab the low-hanging fruit), while also talking constantly about the harder legislation that will actually be more effective at reducing emissions.

When President Obama announced his plans to have the EPA issue power plant regulations, he acknowledged that the regulations were just the best he could do without Congress enacting a bipartisan market-based solution. That is what we need to fight climate change seriously. A market-based solution means putting a price on carbon. It means charging a tax for carbon pollution. When people or businesses are taxed for polluting, they stop doing it. If Congress would enact a revenue-neutral carbon tax with border adjustments, it would result in substantial emissions reductions, both in the U.S. and internationally.

As a longtime Republican involved in politics, can Hager convince Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte to co-sponsor with Shaheen a bipartisan carbon tax that will protect the beautiful Granite State?

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(The writer is a member of the Citizens Climate Lobby.)

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