

Pippy offered readers the wrong solution for coal pollution: PennLive letters

By [Letters to the Editor](#) on June 09, 2014

John Pippy, of the Pennsylvania Coal Alliance, [objects to EPA regulations because they will lead to less coal use](#). He presents data of the economic hardship regulations will cause, but fails to present the economic hardships from pollution that will grow more severe if fossil fuel pollution isn't curtailed.

Pippy wants U.S. government policy to protect coal, ensuring coal stays in our energy mix, no matter what. As a Republican, surely Pippy believes in the free market.

Therefore, he knows the best policy to protect the environment and allow coal a chance to stay in the mix, is a national carbon tax. The carbon tax, paid by fossil fuel producers, should be rebated to U.S. households. A recent study by REMI of a national carbon tax and rebate system predicts electricity prices will rise for ten years, but dividends to households will shield people from this hardship. After ten years, electricity prices will drop steeply due to an explosion in new energy technology.

Economists suggest carbon taxes are the best way to stimulate investment in clean coal technology. Then coal will thrive. Without carbon taxes, coal has no future.

If Pippy cares about people employed in coal jobs, he should ask Pennsylvania's delegation to debate in Congress the merits of using some carbon tax revenues to help states heavily dependent on coal.

Get the congressional debate going. But stop whining like a spoiled child used to special treatment about modest EPA regulations issued because Congress has failed to enact legislation.

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http://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2014/06/pippy_offered_readers_the_wron.html