

# Plenty of reasons for us to shift away from oil

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You gave the perfect title to Mr. Bill Pettit's letter to the editor: "Government should take lead in shift away from oil." Mr. Pettit's reason for this effort is a desire to be free from OPEC market manipulation.

I concur with Mr. Pettit's desire to be free of OPEC. I offer a second reason for the government to lead in shifting us away from oil: climate change.

Transportation accounts for about 30 percent of U.S. fossil-fuel emissions, and the government should lead in reducing these emissions by providing options and incentives for us to shift away from oil.

A carbon tax will stick it to OPEC and to climate change, both at the same time. By taxing oil (OPEC will have to pay a tax to the U.S. government on their oil when it enters our ports), the price of oil will increase. Demand for oil will decrease as we shift to other options, and OPEC will see a decline in sales of oil to the U.S.. They will lose market share to other types of fuel. Hurrah!

If the government takes the lead in offering inexpensive, less carbon-intensive fuels for our autos, our climate change problems will resolve.

A revenue-neutral carbon tax would be collected by the government and rebated to everyone in the country. Imagine getting a tax rebate of taxes paid by OPEC on oil they try to sell here! Does it get any sweeter?

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