

## Political action a must on climate change

To the editor:

Thank you for Lauren Stevens' great op-ed column Jan. 26 arguing that we need preachers and artists to lull us out of our moral lethargy and impel us to solve the problem of climate change. Two quibbles.

One: Stevens says that although scientists and economists have done a great job alerting us to the problem, and explaining what needs to be done, politicians are to blame for not acting "and a few even remain skeptics." Politicians who ignore scientific warnings are not skeptics, they are deniers.

There is now a mountain of solid evidence of climate change's existence and human contributions to it. The probability that we have caused less than 50 percent of current warming is nil, nada, zilch. Anyone who refuses to accept humanity's substantial contribution to warming is a denier, not a skeptic.

Two: Stevens argues persuasively that preachers and artists must use art and oration to inspire us to act. However, the action we need is political: economists insist a national carbon tax is the most efficient, equitable effective way to lower emissions. Therefore, we need Congress to enact a carbon tax. Most clergy serving in congregations will talk about religion or sex, but they avoid politics and taxes. They don't want to chase away members and they are scared for their jobs.

I urge church and synagogue boards to investigate Citizens' Climate Lobby's carbon tax proposal which includes rebating all carbon tax revenue to the public in order to prevent the tax from being regressive, hurting household budgets, and creating a drag on the economy. We cannot be satisfied until congregational boards encourage clergy to speak about politics, climate change and carbon taxes, for we "will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream."

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