

Questions for Tillerson

Tuesday, January 03, 2017

Rachel Courtney's [op-ed](#) (*Monitor* Forum, Dec. 24) urged New Hampshire's congressional delegation to study and promote a national carbon tax, however there's more urgent climate work for Sen. Shaheen.

As a member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, she'll be able to question Rex Tillerson during his secretary of state hearing. Since Tillerson has spoken frequently about the value of a national carbon tax, his hearing would provide Shaheen with an opportunity to question him about carbon taxes, the relationship between climate change and foreign policy, his support for the Paris climate accord, and the role of the secretary of state in promoting American climate policy.

Readers should please write to Shaheen with questions they would like her to raise during Tillerson's hearing, such as:

Why is a carbon tax better for business and the environment than regulations?

How can Congress make carbon taxes non-regressive?

Why hasn't Tillerson lobbied for it?

Shaheen should also review a March 13, 2014, Senate Foreign Relations hearing on the Keystone XL pipeline during which climate scientist James Hansen spoke about the need for a national carbon tax and current committee chair Bob Corker agreed with Hansen that it's a good idea, but it's time hadn't come yet.

Perhaps Shaheen can encourage Tillerson to discuss: Is it time now? How will he know when it's time? What are the risks of waiting too long? These are questions Americans deserve to hear Tillerson answer.

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