

Rand Paul disingenuous

Thank you for publishing Sen. Rand Paul's objections to President Barack Obama's plans to regulate coal-burning plants. They do seem to attack coal.

However, Paul's objections are disingenuous. He knows we must reduce greenhouse gas emissions for health reasons, to protect business infrastructure from severe weather and for safety and national security reasons.

And he knows Congress failed to pass climate change legislation, so the president must act alone. He also knows the president's best tool for reducing emissions is Environmental Protection Agency regulations targeting power plants.

Paul further knows Congress could enact a carbon tax that would not single out coal for attack. It would fairly impact all fuels from all sources, economy-wide and tax them based on the damage they cause to the environment. If Paul doesn't want coal to be singled out, he should sponsor carbon tax legislation.

In addition, if Paul wants to prevent damage to Kentucky's "tepid" economy, he could make sure that a carbon tax is revenue-neutral. By collecting a tax from fuel producers and returning it to households (via rebate or income tax reductions), he can shield constituents from price increases and stimulate the economy with this infusion of money.

Paul knows other countries and states with carbon taxes have experienced economic growth and job expansion because carbon taxes encourage private investors to invest in companies developing new greener technology.

I urge your readers to call Paul's office asking him to sponsor carbon tax legislation.

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<http://www.kentucky.com/2013/07/27/2734688/letters-editor-july-27-2013.html>