

Saturday, October 12, 2013

Readers should warm up to carbon tax idea

As a Citizens Climate Lobby volunteer, I am trained to praise before critiquing. Sorry, nothing good can be said about Robert Bradley's column, "Economic dangers of a carbon tax."

He equates governmental calculations of the cost of fossil fuels to society with a carbon tax. The two are unrelated. He also repeats falsehoods about there being no increase in global temperatures since 1996. That lie, promulgated by fossil-fuel companies, was debunked repeatedly, and the fact he mentions it underscores his intent to mislead readers.

Worst is the headline. He doesn't discuss a carbon tax, but allows the title to persuade readers to oppose carbon taxes. Readers, bogged down in the dense discussion of the social cost of carbon, may not understand the text of his article but get the idea carbon taxes are dangerous.

However, the economic advantages of carbon taxes are lauded by conservative and liberal economists.

A carbon tax would be paid by fossil-fuel producers and rebated to the public via rebate checks or income tax reductions.

Carbon taxes are better at fighting climate change than regulations because they would affect foreign nations too. They would be better for consumers because either way prices will go up, but carbon taxes guarantee consumers a rebate.

Mr. Bradley didn't talk about carbon taxes because they would be bad for the fossil-fuel companies who fund his endeavors. But they would be very good for your readers.

JUDY WEISS

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