

Renewable energy sources make sense

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To the editor:

Jay Ambrose's column, "Three Strikes for the Obama Climate Change Plan" (Eagle-Tribune, Aug. 9) was completely wrong until he reached his last paragraph: "Do renewables really make economic and energy sense as the way of the future? Supposing the answer is yes, watch the free market do its job."

Fossil fuel industries have a problem: Renewables make economic and energy sense. Natural gas prices fluctuate wildly, hurting households and businesses. Drilling releases dangerous methane. Building gas infrastructure is expensive. Renewables are cheap to install, requiring little infrastructure. They give electricity to the poor in regions without an electric grid, and they allow everyone here to live free of pollutants from power plants, diesel fumes and coal ash.

However ... although Ambrose argues that we should rely on the free market, his answer is duplicitous. He knows the fossil fuel industry is preventing the free market from doing its job.

Fossil fuel industries spend a fortune every year stopping the free market from doing its job: They fund efforts to prevent market-based net-metering, cap solar, and maintain special fossil fuel tax benefits which are bigger than renewable subsidies. These tactics disable the free market.

Even worse, fossil fuel industries lobby Congress to ignore carbon pricing proposals. This is their biggest subsidy. They may pollute for free while we bear the cost of climate change and their pollution.

Please ask Congress to charge fossil fuel producers a carbon fee and rebate revenues to the public. It'll work faster than EPA regulations. Contact Citizens' Climate Lobby for more information.

Rabbi Judy Weiss

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