

# Weiss: Repeal tax breaks for fossil fuels

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Thanks for suggesting we imagine the laws Congress should repeal, and actions the president ought to undertake (Rick Holmes, "Repeal this," Aug. 11).

Congress should repeal all special tax benefits for fossil fuel companies (including percentage depletion, expensing of IDC, expensing of tertiary injectants, passive loss exemptions, election to expense refinery costs, oil and gas production activity deduction, and LIFO for oil and gas). These benefits must end if we want to lower emissions and slow climate change.

The president should deny approval for the Keystone XL pipeline because Dr. James Hansen, former head of NASA's climate science, thinks the pipeline should not be built. The White House should also publicly apologize to Dr. Hansen for the previous administration's efforts to silence him for speaking about climate change. The White House should stop issuing permits for offshore drilling, drilling in public lands, and the export of fossil fuels from any port in the U.S. until Congress passes a revenue-neutral carbon tax to charge for carbon emissions.

Mr. Obama should proclaim December 17 to be 350-day (the 350th day of the year). It will be observed as a solemn day of national gathering at the Capitol because Dr. Hansen advises we bring our atmospheric level of CO<sub>2</sub> back to 350 ppm, his estimate of a sustainable upper limit.

This is a wonderful hope-building exercise. Thank you.

**RABBI JUDY WEISS**

*Brookline*

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