

# Serious business

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Thank you for publishing Tom Watkins' article that expressed his confusion about what to do in light of the "seriousness of global warming."

Watkins cites a 2013 Congressional Budget Office report saying carbon taxes are a drag on the economy. Yet, he ignores 2014 REMI reports that affirm rebating all revenue to the public prevents harm to the economy. Watkins also ignores carbon taxes' positive effects on alternative energy innovators, entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.

Watkins argues government rebating the revenue "is a pipe dream." However, if We the People want a carbon tax and want it rebated to us, Congress will make it so. We need only demand it loudly enough that they'll move into warp speed writing carbon tax legislation.

Watkins argues carbon taxes will be passed on to the public (of course they will; that's why we'll change our behavior), and such policy proposals only "come from people who can easily afford such increased out-of-pocket expenses." He's wrong about carbon tax supporters. Plenty of people on tight budgets support carbon taxes because we know the rebate will shield us from higher expenses. Carbon tax supporters come from all income brackets. The public is already paying huge hidden costs and would be better off paying legislated carbon taxes.

What hidden costs? Higher medical expenses due to pollution's effects, and warming's increased pest-borne infections. More disaster relief, and higher flood insurance.

Let's pay our fuels' real costs instead of climate change's hidden costs. These hidden costs belong to the industries profiting from dirty fuels.

Finally, Watkins acknowledges global warming's seriousness but

rejects carbon taxes without offering any alternative solution other than waiting.

We don't have time to wait. We need to stabilize the climate now. Please join Citizens' Climate Lobby to help make it so.

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