

States need to enact carbon taxes

Thanks for reporting on Connecticut considering state carbon taxes alongside Massachusetts and Rhode Island. It's noteworthy that carbon tax legislation is pending in Albany, too. Like Connecticut's proposal, it was suggested that New York's carbon tax should only become effective after two neighboring states enact similar measures. Neighboring support is important to assure businesses that they won't lose out to across-the-border competitors. Carbon taxes also assure businesses and investors that we'll transition to clean energy without economic chaos.

Individuals want assurances, too. As Massachusetts state Sen. Michael Barrett noted, dividends of tax revenue must fairly accommodate everyone, from rural households to urban apartment dwellers. This issue is multifaceted because people in rural areas travel greater distances, but apartment dwellers have fewer heat and utility options (converting a large apartment building from centralized oil-burning steam to carbon-free heat is tough, and one unit isn't at liberty to switch alone).

It'd be great if Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York each enact state carbon taxes this year, especially if they independently decide to use the revenue in differing ways. Whether revenue goes towards dividends, tax offsets or renewables incentives, we'll have created a multistate, living laboratory that generates data for best uses of revenues, and demonstrates how effectively carbon taxes cut emissions.

If our carbon tax bills are all signed on July 4, 2017, we could affirm what Congress has forgotten: "We mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

— *Judy Weiss*

Brookline, Massachusetts

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