

Students' action is inspiring

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Thanks for your uplifting article about Vermont high school students marching for climate action. As a grandmother who volunteers advocating for carbon taxes that can efficiently and equitably cut emissions, I was wowed by high schoolers speaking at a rally in favor of carbon taxes.

Rallies are wonderful and energizing. Yet to be effective, rally energy must be harnessed and converted into long-term sustained advocacy action — action by high schoolers, their parents, grandparents, teachers and neighbors. Everyone supporting each other.

It's surreal that Congress won't consider a national carbon tax. The conservative, libertarian Niskanen Center supports national carbon taxes. Niskanen also advises states not to sit around waiting for Congress, but instead they should join our Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to cut emissions with our successful carbon pricing system. Carbon taxes are not a liberal idea. They're a sound economic policy supported by left and right. It's heartwarming that a libertarian think tank staffed by ex-Cato Institute employees is urging other states to piggyback on our system.

Meanwhile, our RGGI states should take our energies, our outrage over congressional inaction and our disgust at Scott Pruitt's plans to eviscerate the EPA, and we should push for our own state carbon tax programs. New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont are all considering state carbon tax bills — we're not in this alone, and we need not fear carbon tax naysayers.

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