

Studies backing climate mitigation mean more jobs

Judy Weiss, Brookline, MA 12:11 a.m. EDT June 22, 2014

Thanks for publishing the recent letter “Climate change could bring jobs to Asheville” (AC-T, June 17) asserting that climate change mitigation would bring jobs via new alternative energy enterprises. Two new studies support that.

The first study by Mark Jacobson of Stanford analyzes the resources and geography of each individual state and suggests how each state could provide its energy needs by 2050 using only emissions-free energy. His projected energy mix for North Carolina would feature 50 percent offshore wind energy, about 40 percent various types of solar energy projects with the balance coming from hydro, tidal turbines, wave energy and geothermal. He estimates roughly 142,000 full-time, permanent construction jobs and another 90,000 jobs in operations.

A second study by REMI (Regional Economic Models Inc) analyzes a revenue-neutral carbon tax that is fully rebated to the public via monthly checks to households. REMI concludes such a tax would lower emissions and create 2 million jobs nationwide within 10 years.

Mostly both these studies consider policy plans that would encourage American problem-solving creativity to find clever new ways to provide our energy needs without polluting our air and water and destabilizing our climate.

Readers should please urge Rep. Patrick McHenry to review the work of Mark Jacobson and REMI and propose job creating, problem-solving solutions to our climate change-energy quandary.

<http://www.citizen-times.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/06/22/studies-backing-climate-mitigation-mean-jobs/11136709/>