

## LETTER: Weiss on fossil fuel

Barry Bickmore's article explained fossil fuels' external costs are high and unfair. He asserted reducing fossil fuel use would save more just in reduced health expenses than it might cost in higher energy bills.

Bickmore isn't alone. U.S. District Court Judge R. Brooke Jackson ruled in a Colorado lawsuit in June that it is "capricious and arbitrary" to advocate for the mining and burning of coal based on its benefits while ignoring its costs to society. Brooke put a hold on a pending lease to mine coal, and environmentalists filed more lawsuits to effectively shutdown the Federal government's program to lease land for coal mining.

The simplest way to deal with costs to society from carbon emissions is with a national carbon emissions fee. The fee automatically adds society's cost from carbon emissions to fossil fuel prices. Then everyone automatically pays their share of these costs.

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Not to charge polluters for the harm their pollution causes is arbitrary and capricious.

Charging a carbon emissions fee can be priceless: readers should ask their senators and representative to support a national carbon fee and require all revenue be rebated to the public, making it a truly priceless environmental policy.

-- Judy Weiss, Brookline, Mass