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What to do about climate change

Published: May 16

Regarding the May 16 editorial "[Clarity on climate change](#)":

Having reviewed the summary of the [report](#) to which this editorial responds, it is immediately clear that it is simply an expanded supposition based on previously published models, all of which attempt to extrapolate climate changes based on historic data and a sketchy understanding of the actual processes involved. As Academy of Sciences President Ralph J. Cicerone should fully understand, the basic test of a model is its ability to predict, and all the current climate models continue to fail that test.

The climate is certainly changing, as it has continuously since our atmosphere was formed. Adaptation is near universally accepted as key to survival of any species. But trading off a key set of energy resources necessary to economic development of the world economy based on an unproven supposition appears more religion than science. Those same models conclude, as alluded to in the report, that elimination of the hypothetical problem source in the United States would have negligible impact on the projected global system. So we are being told to sacrifice our economic development as an "example," expecting the rest of the world to accept relative, and in most case abject, poverty based on that "example."

The level of naivety apparent in those recommendations from the nonprofit and non-accountable National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences is staggering.

William Mills, Sterling

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As The Post concluded, the [National Academy of Sciences report](#) on climate change leaves little doubt that we must take decisive steps now to lower our greenhouse gas emissions.

Also noted is the recalcitrance of Republicans on this issue, many of whom have signed the Americans for Prosperity pledge to "oppose any legislation relating to climate change that includes a net increase in government revenue."

Fair enough. What about a carbon fee and dividend approach to pricing carbon? A steadily increasing fee on carbon-based fuels could level the playing field between fossil fuels and clean energy within a decade, creating the economic incentive for a transition to renewables such as solar and wind. Returning the revenue

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from the carbon fee to all households — the “dividend” — would help Americans cope with rising energy costs and would also prevent “a net increase in government revenue.”

We must act quickly, though, before the floods and fires we’ve seen this spring become the new norm.

Steve Valk, Atlanta

The writer is communications director for Citizens Climate Lobby.

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