

I am in favor of HB05363 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CARBON PRICE FOR FOSSIL FUELS SOLD IN CONNECTICUT.

I believe carbon (or carbon-equivalent) pricing is the best way to encourage power and fuel providers to reduce greenhouse gases. It is an approach that has been embraced by lawmakers across the political spectrum. For example, the Climate Leadership Council, which includes George Schultz and James Baker, among other former Republican leaders, has proposed carbon pricing with the proceeds going back to the public. And in a meeting this week of oil industry executives, the BP chief executive, Bob Dudley, called for countries to put a price on carbon pollution. "We have never denied the science," he said. "We want to debate the policy."

There's no question that climate change is real. Just ask the 97% of scientists and the 193 countries that signed the Paris Climate Accords, or look at the NASA or NOAA website. In the 2018 Worldwide Threat Assessment, the National Intelligence Community listed climate change as a security threat. They said, " The past 115 years have been the warmest period in the history of modern civilization, and the past few years have been the warmest years on record. Extreme weather events in a warmer world raise the risk of humanitarian disasters, conflict, water and food shortages, population migration, labor shortfalls, price shocks, and power outages."

Carbon emissions cause health problems - for example, 1 out of 12 children in Connecticut have asthma. Climate change transforms tropical storms into disasters by increasing the strength of the winds and the amount of rain. So we need a way to encourage power and fuel providers to switch to lower-carbon-equivalent sources of energy.

This act adds no costs to the state budget because it provides for administrative costs to be covered by the money collected from the energy providers.

It will not make Connecticut businesses uncompetitive because the states that surround us will be imposing similar fees.

It doesn't restrict what companies are able to do. The incentive to lower the use of carbon-equivalents is that it will be cheaper for the providers, not that they are prohibited from using them.

It returns to the public (individuals and businesses) 95% of fees collected, thereby mitigating the increase in fuel and power prices.

With the federal government abdicating its responsibility to protect our health and the future of the planet, we rely on you in the state legislature to protect us. Please approve this bill and send it on to the full legislature.

Thank you.

--

Jo Ann Flaum  
Westport, CT