June 2017

Climate Change Impacts in Northern Idaho

To: Senator Mike Crapo
Senator Jim Risch
Representative Raúl Labrador

As business and community leaders in Idaho's First Congressional District, we ask you to make a prudent response to the threats that climate change poses to our economy and our way of life here in Idaho. As the Idaho Office of Emergency Management states: "the climate is changing . . . and the known hazards are both changing and increasing"(1).

Professionals from all sectors project an additional increase in our state's annual average temperature of 3–4 degrees Fahrenheit by mid-century and an increase of 4–6.5 degrees Fahrenheit by 2100 under a business-as-usual scenario. This warming substantially increases unpredictability, risk, and negative impacts for our economy, environment, and human population.

Impacts here in Northern Idaho include:

- Changes in water availability and temperature patterns are leading to greater extremes and seasonal water shortages and flooding. We have seen drier soils, increased erosion, warmer winters, and the spread of pests that significantly damage Idaho's agricultural industry.

- Forest disturbances, including invasive insects, tree disease, and wildfires will dominate forest landscapes in the coming decades, threatening an industry that is sustained by the careful balance of natural resources. In 2015, while the number of forest fires was fairly typical, the number of acres burned was 594% of a 20-year average (2).

- Snowpack will continue to decrease. During the past 10 years, the snowpack has already decreased by an amount that has kept hydropower generation below historical averages 74% of the time (3). Rapid snowmelt overwhelms reservoir storage. This means wasted water, impacting the generation of electricity and irrigated agriculture.

- Idaho's recreational and tourism sector forms the lifeblood of many of our rural communities. Changes in temperature and precipitation will shorten ski seasons and make forests inaccessible due to increased wildfires, while droughts will damage water sports and fishing.

- Idahoans' health is threatened by climate change. Extreme heat contributes to more illness and death. Respiratory illness will rise as the climate warms and air pollution increases (4).

There are economically sensible, politically viable, market-based options to reduce the worst effects of climate change on all Idahoans . . . and especially on children, those who work on the land, and those living in poverty. We urge you, as our representatives, to join others in Congress in working toward a constructive solution to the climate crisis.

Respectfully submitted by the following Northern Idaho business and community leaders (signature authorizations on file):

(Names, businesses, etc. will be added here.)

References

1. https://ioem.idaho.gov/Pages/Plans/Mitigation/Documents/plan/State%20of%20Idaho%20Hazard%20Mitigation%20Plan%202013_Chapter%203.2.pdf
2. (http://www.idahofireinfo.com/2015/10/a-look-back-at-2015-fire-season-for.html)
3. https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=ID
4. https://www.cdc.gov/climateandhealth/effects/

Signed by individuals
not "Board"

Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, HR 763

The way it works in a nutshell: This bill would impose a fee on oil refineries, coal producers and other companies that are major sources of carbon dioxide. They would respond by raising prices. But also, a carbon tax would spur innovation in sustainable energy. Jobs would be created. Greenhouse gas emissions would go down. The money (less administrative costs) from fossil-fuel industries would be returned in a monthly dividend to US citizens. No money would stay with the government.

Text of the bill, from congress.gov

This bill imposes a fee on the carbon content of fuels, including crude oil, natural gas, coal, or any other product derived from those fuels that will be used so as to emit greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
The fee is imposed on the producers or importers of the fuels and is equal to the greenhouse gas content of the fuel multiplied by the carbon fee rate. The rate begins at $15 in 2019, increases by $10 each year, and is subject to further adjustments based on the progress in meeting specified emissions reduction targets. The bill also imposes a specified fee on fluorinated greenhouse gases.
The bill includes

- exemptions for fuels used for agricultural or non-emitting purposes,
- exemptions for fuels used by the Armed Forces,
- rebates for facilities that capture and sequester carbon dioxide, and
- border adjustment provisions that require certain fees or refunds for carbon-intensive products that are exported or imported.

The fees must be deposited into a Carbon Dividend Trust Fund and used for administrative expenses and dividend payments to U.S. citizens or lawful residents. The fees must be decommissioned when emissions levels and monthly dividend payments fall below specified levels.
The bill also suspends certain regulations that limit greenhouse gas emissions. The suspensions expire if the emissions targets established by this bill are not reached after a specified time period.

More information

EICD Act has 66 co-sponsors as of 10/2019. Please see energyinnovationact.org for a list of sponsors and major endorsers.

Do current Republican politicians publically support this bill? Not apparently.
HR 763 has only one Republican co-sponsor (one of the original co-sponsors)

<u>But, do Republicans support federal action on climate change? Yes. Do they support the idea of carbon fee and dividend? Yes.</u>

Climate Leadership Council is an international organization founded by Republican statesmen, economists, and businessmen. It has a carbon fee and dividend plan, published in 2017 as "The Conservative Case for Carbon Dividends."

Bob Inglis, former Republican senator from So. Carolina, heads an organization called republicEn which works to slow climate change.

Students for Carbon Dividends is an organization of Republican college students. They support Climate Leadership Council's plan.

Regarding Letters, Emails, and Calls to Idaho Politicians asking them to support federal legislation on climate change

Representatives Russ Fulcher and Mike Simpson:

Ask to co-sponsor HR 763 Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

Senators Mike Crapo and Jim Risch:

Ask to support carbon fee and dividend legislation to address climate change; if there is a bill in the Senate, refer to it.

Say where you are from and that you are very concerned about the burning of fossil fuels and climate change/global warming.

Say what particularly concerns you and why; localize it.

- Disruption of agriculture resulting in reduced production
- More extreme weather more often; flooding, droughts, wildfires
- Displacement of people and mass migrations
- National security implications from conflicts due to scarcity of food, water, arable land
- Health impacts from air pollution, heat
- Economic decline of US due to other countries taking the lead developing sustainable sources of energy
- Melting ice, sea level rise and warming, collapse of marine ecosystems
- Species extinction

FYI, there are Republicans in favor of carbon fee and dividend legislation; they are not vulnerable to voting. See Climate Leadership Council's plan. See former Sen. Inglis's site republicEN. CCL has a Republican group.

Give complete contact information: name, address, phone, email. Staff members keep track of public response to issues. Make it easy for them to see your main point.

Energy Innovation AND Carbon Dividend Act

THE BIPARTISAN CLIMATE SOLUTION

H.R. 763

The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act will drive down America's carbon pollution and bring climate change under control, while unleashing American technology innovation and ingenuity. It's:

Effective
This policy will reduce America's emissions by at least 40% in the first 12 years. It's supported by economists and scientists as simple, comprehensive, and effective.

Good for people
This policy will improve health and save lives by reducing pollution that Americans breathe. Additionally, the carbon dividend puts money directly into people's pockets every month to spend as they see fit, helping low and middle income Americans.

Good for the economy
Will create 2.1 million new jobs, thanks to economic growth in local communities across America.

Bipartisan
Republicans and Democrats are both on board, cosponsoring this bill together. The majority of Americans support Congress taking action on climate change, including more than half of Republicans. Solving climate change is too urgent to get caught up in partisan politics.

Revenue Neutral
The fees collected on carbon emissions will be allocated to all Americans to spend any way they choose. The government will not keep any of the fees collected, so the size of the government will not grow.

Sources for statistics available at: **energyinnovationact.org/data-sources**

How it Works

1. **Carbon Fee**
This policy puts a fee on fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas. It starts low, and grows over time.

2. **Carbon Dividend**
The money collected from the carbon fee is allocated in equal shares every month to the American people to spend as they see fit.

3. **Border Carbon Adjustment**
To protect U.S. manufacturers and jobs, imported goods will pay a border carbon adjustment, and goods exported from the United States will receive a refund under this policy.

4. **Regulatory Adjustment**
This policy preserves effective current regulations, like auto mileage standards, but pauses the EPA authority to regulate the CO2 and equivalent emissions covered by the fee, for the first 10 years after the policy is enacted. If emission targets are not being met after 10 years, Congress gives clear direction to the EPA to regulate those emissions to meet those targets. The pause does not impact EPA regulations related to water quality, air quality, health or other issues. This policy's price on pollution will lower carbon emissions far more than existing and pending EPA regulations.

See Sponsors List & Learn More

Go to **energyinnovationact.org** to learn more about the Energy Innovation & Carbon Dividend Act.

Support the Bill

Go to **cclusa.org/energy-innovation-act** to contact your Congressional Representative

Citizens' Climate Lobby