

I believe we have a moral obligation to protect the planet from the effects of climate change for our children, grandchildren, and future generations.

I believe that placing a price on fossil fuels is a necessary component of a comprehensive climate change policy. A price on fossil fuels is also the easiest, most effective, and most politically viable way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the time frame scientists tell us we have to deal with. It is a market based solution that requires very little regulation. Private businesses and the military are coming to realize that the cost of climate change to our economy will far outweigh the cost of taking action to stop it. For example the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Business Roundtable, and JP Morgan economists have all recently called for market based policies to combat climate change, including placing a price on carbon.

The money collected can then be given back to people as a dividend, rather than being kept as a tax by the government. This provides financial protection to low income earners from the increased cost of energy that a price on carbon causes. The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (EICDA) is a well thought out carbon fee and dividend plan that had 82 cosponsors in the House and over 190,000 people in a grassroots organization called CCL who actively support it. It includes a progressively increasing price on fossil fuels, a dividend back to all American households, and a border adjustment to prevent unfair trade practices. It has been modeled by two entities, including Columbia University, which showed effective reduction of greenhouse emissions, marked reduction of air and environmental pollution, prevention of deaths due to pollution, and long term stimulus of the economy with net job production. I urge you to pass SJM 5-1 in support of EICDA for the purpose of putting more pressure on Congress to pass it.