

# THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

APRIL 13, 2016

Who hasn't walked outside on a starlit night, with the sounds of animals around us, and not felt appreciation for the beautiful planet we have inherited? The problem is that we can't just celebrate in the face of the last two years being the hottest on record our world has seen. There is even evidence of climate change in our area, documented by the the Union of Concerned Scientists in *Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Northeast*. Current observations include more days of 90+ degrees F, less winter precipitation, and rising sea surface temperatures. The UCS research also details significant New England scenarios predicted by the late century.

Another concerning development is the Supreme Court's recent decision to delay implementation of the Clean Power Act, a plan to lower greenhouse gas emissions. This action is a reminder that we need a more powerful solution to climate change than executive actions that can be undone by the next president.

Championed by Secretary of State George Shultz and many leading economists and atmospheric scientists, the strongest measure we can take is for Congress to pass legislation that puts a steadily rising price on carbon, returning revenues raised back to households. This Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation has been shown to cut emissions significantly and add jobs to economies where it has been instituted. Its effectiveness has been supported by the REMI study. Fourteen countries and one sub-national jurisdiction (British Columbia) have already passed or are implementing legislation for a direct carbon tax.

A Carbon Fee and Dividend solution has been bravely initiated by our own Senator, Mike Barrett, House Bill 1747. The legislation aims to move Massachusetts toward being the first state in the Union to have a Carbon Fee and Dividend program. It has many co-sponsors including Representative, Ken Gordon.

We celebrate the Earth each year for the beauty and sustenance it provides. Why not express our gratitude by taking steps to rein in the pollution caused by carbon dioxide emissions? Let's call Senator Barrett and Representative Gordon and thank them for their leadership in moving forward on a market based, revenue-neutral solution to carbon pollution. (Senate Bill 1747 is in committee right now). We can also reach out to our national representatives urging them to do everything possible to further Carbon Fee and Dividend Legislation in the U.S.

April 21 has been designated as a call in day to ask representatives of both parties to support a meaningful solution to climate change. A Carbon Fee and Dividend Bill, with all revenues raised given back to citizens, would be strong medicine. Your voice matters. A survey of Capital Hill staff found that 86% said that phone calls to their offices carry some or a lot of influence on issues. Make May 21st your day to be heard.

*Senator Barrett 617-722-1572*

*Senator Warren 617- 565-3170*

*Rep. Moulton 202-225-8020*

*Rep. Gordon 617-722-2013*

*Senator Markey 202-224-2742*

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