

Intelligencer Journal

Reality calls for carbon regulation

Saturday, May 9, 2015

With regard to a May 5 letter on our Earth's climate ([“Science is not a popularity contest”](#)), I'd like to pass along words of wisdom from an old friend: “It doesn't matter what anyone believes. What matters is what's really happening.”

Many Spaniards, as the letter writer related, believed the world was flat. None had the capacity to prove it. The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has released its 2014 report — the work of 830 authors and review editors from over 80 countries drawing on the work of over 1,000 contributing authors and about 2,000 expert reviewers providing over 140,000 review comments. Unlike “man on the street” Spaniards still believing the world is flat, these scientists achieved 95 percent consensus that climate change (indisputable) is manmade.

Regarding the letter writer's endorsement of climate-change denier Richard Lindzen, professor emeritus of atmospheric sciences at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one has only to Google Lindzen's pay-to-play activities to discover his past and present alliances with the Cato Institute, Western Fuels and OPEC.

Moving beyond belief versus reality, according to a recent Yale University climate policy survey, an encouraging 75 percent of Lancaster Countians support regulating carbon as a pollutant, while 44 percent support a carbon tax (with almost as many undecided on this point). Unfortunately, carbon regulation is no match for the Citizen's Climate Lobby carbon fee-and-dividend proposal.

On the regulatory front, the current Clean Power Plan aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 30 percent by 2030. According to a nonpartisan economic model, a fee (tax) on carbon that increases by \$10 per ton each year will reduce emissions at power plants 90 percent during that same time.

The Citizen's Climate Lobby plan would return those fees directly to all citizens in order to offset fossil fuel costs. Citizen pressure on Congress is essential for us to move beyond the ecologically disastrous economic model of subsidized fossil fuel.

Diana DeLucca

Millersville