



## Coping with climate change

By Lynn Goldfarb

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A recent letter to the editor points out that a solution to climate change is available that could be supported by Republicans ("Carbon fee is bipartisan solution to climate change," Jan 22).

It's revenue-neutral (no new taxes), uses conservative, free-market economics and requires no government regulations or expansion. Moreover, it would create millions of permanent net jobs, add substantially to our GDP and put extra cash in the average American's pockets every month.

The only problem is that many Republican members of Congress rely heavily on fossil fuel corporations to fund their elections campaigns — which is true for the national GOP, too.

Their think tanks — the Heritage Foundation, Americans for Prosperity, the Cato Institute, etc. — are funded heavily by entities like the Koch brothers and ExxonMobil.

James Inhofe, Congress' most vocal climate denier, used to be for climate science before he was against it. When Oklahoma oil corporations offered him the kind of campaign money that would make him a U.S. senator, he became a climate science denier.

Prominent Republicans who are not running for office, such as former President George W. Bush's treasury secretary Henry Paulson, are speaking out forcefully about the need for a national tax on carbon.

Former GOP Congressman Bob Ingliss and President Ronald Reagan's former treasury secretary, George Schultz, have joined forces to support the Citizens Climate Lobby's plan for a revenue-neutral carbon pollution fee.

It's also supported by most major economists, both conservative and liberal, including eight Nobel Prize winners.

Does the GOP really want to keep arguing against this? Let's hope Republicans will soon see that climate-science denial is not on their long term interest. Climate change is coming, and when it really kicks in we'll all know who to blame.

