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Carbon Tax: Solution to Nonexistent Problem

Scientists recognize that change is a normal attribute of climate on all geological time scales, yet a unique tax rate of \$40 per ton of carbon (carbon dioxide) is claimed to cure “a potential threat of climate change.”

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George P. Shultz and James A. Baker (“[We Thought We Would Hit Your Sweet Spot](#),” Letters, March 10) offer a lengthy polemic in apparent bewilderment as to why their tax scheme to cure a postulated “threat of climate change” was not better received. Climate change caused by carbon dioxide is assumed by the authors to be a global malady in need of a cure—their tax cure.

Scientists recognize that change is a normal attribute of climate on all geological time scales, yet a unique tax rate of \$40 per ton of carbon (carbon dioxide) is claimed to cure “a potential threat of climate change.” The authors assume that carbon dioxide is a prime driver of global climate but offer no proof. Dangerous anthropogenic climate change secondary to the burning of fossil fuels remains an unproved hypothesis, in spite of billions of dollars spent in the attempt. Years of claims of climate catastrophes that never come to realization and computer climate-modeling failures challenge the leading role given carbon dioxide in climate-change hypotheses.

The authors note that “energy producers support this notion” of a carbon tax. As any production costs or “carbon dioxide tax” are passed onto taxpayers and consumers, such producers have no reason to oppose it, and may well support it for public-relations reasons. Smoke-and-mirrors tax policies typically leave the taxpayer on the short end of the deal as those versed in government machinations well know. That is the real threat.

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