

The Enterprise

Posted Jul. 9, 2016 @ 12:01 am

When the House passed its version of the energy bill a few weeks ago, they left out a major factor in cleaning up our energy: carbon pricing.

Carbon pricing places a fee on the carbon dioxide pollution emitted by fossil fuels. Because Massachusetts doesn't extract its own fossil fuels, it brings them in from places like Saudi Arabia, Texas, Pennsylvania, etc. This means Massachusetts residents are helping money flow through these places and getting nothing but poor air quality in return.

If a carbon pricing policy were to pass, it could have major benefits to Massachusetts residents. The revenue can help low income families, make massive cuts in our climate change pollution, and keep more of our energy dollars in Massachusetts. A 2014 study from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources found that carbon pricing could substantially cut our greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to these benefits, carbon pricing will increase market demand for more clean energy.

Carbon pricing isn't the only tool to combat climate change, but it is definitely an effective one. As we wait for a comprehensive energy bill to come about, I urge you to reach out to your local senators and representatives and ask them to do what's best for Massachusetts. My personal hope is that the state legislature and governor realize what an incredible opportunity this could be for the Commonwealth.

FAITH SIMON

Avon