Climate and Congress: The Making of a Citizen
From Apathy to Action

CSTPR Noontime Seminar
October 25, 2017
Grant Couch
AGENDA

• Personal Background
• Climate Education
• Possible Solution & Path
• Political Education/Appreciating the System
• Becoming a Citizen
• Takeaways
COUNTRY HOME...
What, me worry?
ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES

THINK DON’T BE A LITTERBUG
Climate Education/Understanding the Issue(s)

- SCIENCE?
ATTRIBUTES of a GOOD CLIMATE POLICY

• CREATES SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN GhG EMISSIONS
• OFFSETS THE REGRESSIVE NATURE OF HIGHER ENERGY COSTS
• INCREASES U.S. EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMY W/O GROWING THE GOVERNMENT
• BUSINESS FRIENDLY
  ▪ MAINTAINS AMERICA’S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ROLL W/O REQUIRING AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT
STORMS
OF MY GRANDCHILDREN

The Truth About the Coming Climate Catastrophe and Our Last Chance to Save Humanity

JAMES HANSEN

"Hands down the best, most informative, brilliantly written book on general climate science I've ever read." — Emily Rose
PROPOSED SOLUTION

REVENUE-NEUTRAL PRICE ON CO2
Place a fee on fossil fuels at the source (mine, well or port).

Return all of the revenue to households equally.

A border adjustment on goods imported from or exported to countries without an equivalent price on carbon.
CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY / CF&D DETAILS

FEE ON CARBON

- STARTS AT $10/METRIC TON OF CO2
- ESCALATES $10 EVERY YEAR THROUGH THE 2030s
- AT POINT OF EXTRACTION (WELL OR MINE) & PORT OF ENTRY

DIVIDEND

100% OF REVENUES RAISED ARE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS.

BORDER ADJUSTMENT (EXPORTS & IMPORTS)

PREVENTS THE EXPORT OF POLLUTION AND JOBS
ECONOMIC IMPACT of CF&D

• 52% REDUCTION IN CO2 EMISSIONS

• ADDITIONAL $70 BIL/yr IN U.S. GDP

• ADDITIONAL 2+MM U.S. JOBS/yr BY 10TH YR

• DIVIDENDS “PROTECT” 70+% OF AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS

Source: REMI - Regional Economic Models, Inc.
THE PATH TO PASSAGE:

. NON-PARTISAN

. 85,000 VOLUNTEER MEMBERS

. TRAINED TO LOBBY & OUTREACH

. REPRESENTED IN ALL 435 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS
"Americans are polarized in the worst possible way — two tribes not so much united by love for their own as hatred for the other."

David French - National Review
TWO PERCEPTIONS
A DIFFERENT SCIENCE

"Your mother and I are separating because I want what's best for the country and your mother doesn't."
Different Worldviews

Hierarchist/Authoritarian

Individualist

Egalitarian

Solidarist / Communitarian

Source: Cultural Cognition and Public Policy by Dan M. Kahan and Donald Braman
POLITICAL HISTORY - NOT ALWAYS THUS...

• Nixon > EPA – 1970

• Reagan > Montreal Protocol – 1988

• S.1610 - Global Climate Change Prevention Act of 1989 – sponsored by Claudine Schneider (R – RI) w/bi-partisan co-sponsors
CURRENT POLITICAL REALITY

• LOUD
  • Hoax / China / “Clean Coal” / Defund EPA

• QUIET
  • Climate Leadership Council (Shultz, Baker et al)
  • Bi-partisan House Climate Solutions Caucus
  • Republican House Climate Resolution (H.Res. 195)
  • DoD – Defense Secretary Mattis
  • Sec of State, Tillerson
THE FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL PROBLEM?
## Top 10 Priority Issues, by Party Identification

“How important is it to you that the president and Congress deal with each of the following issues in the next year?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Democrat/Democrat leaners (%)</th>
<th>Republican/Republican Leaners (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Economy (91)</td>
<td>Economy (88)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Education (91)</td>
<td>Terrorism (77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Poverty and homelessness (82)</td>
<td>Military and defense (76)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Healthcare policy (79)</td>
<td>Healthcare policy (75)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Social Security and Medicare (77)</td>
<td>Education (70)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Distribution of income/wealth (72)</td>
<td>Taxes (69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Crime (71)</td>
<td>Social Security and Medicare (67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Environment (71)</strong></td>
<td>Crime (65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Terrorism (68)</td>
<td>Immigration (54)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gun policy (64)</td>
<td>World affairs (53)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mood of the Nation Survey, 2014**

% Extremely or Very important

1,018 adults, living in all 50 U.S. states & D.C.
The public’s policy priorities for 2016
% rating each a top priority for Obama and Congress

- Economy: 75%
- Terrorism: 75%
- Education: 66%
- Jobs: 64%
- Social Security: 62%
- Health care costs: 61%
- Medicare: 58%
- Reducing crime: 58%
- Budget deficit: 56%
- Poor and needy: 54%
- Immigration: 51%
- Military: 49%
- Environment: 47%
- Tax reform: 46%
- Criminal justice reform: 44%
- Climate change: 38%
- Gun policy: 37%
- Global trade: 31%

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 7-14, 2016.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER
But there is hope...

...the Millennials are coming
Top 6 Issues Millennials’ want Supported by any Candidates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>MEN</th>
<th>WOMEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Fixing public schools</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Promoting clean energy</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Reducing the Nat’l debt</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Pay equality for women</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5) Addressing poverty</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Student loan reform</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: College Republican National Committee – Millennial Survey June 2016 - [www.millennial.gop](http://www.millennial.gop)
# Top Six Desired Political Party Attributes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Desired Attribute</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Racial and gender equality</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>New ways to pay for college</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Raising teacher salaries and school funding</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Reducing income inequality</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Making it easier to move up out of poverty</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Taking action to address climate change</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: College Republican National Committee – Millennial Survey June 2016 - [www.millennial.gop](http://www.millennial.gop)
SCIENCE OR RISK MANAGEMENT?

• WHAT WE CAN “ACCEPT” IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE “SHOULD” KNOW

• AND WHAT CAN WE “KNOW” FOR SURE?
The “FAT TAIL” – The “BLACK SWAN”
What, me worry?
TAKEAWAYS

• Basic Risk Management calls for Action and there is a “no cost” solution
• A strong American economy and environmental quality are not mutually exclusive
• Compatible with both Republican and Democrat principles
REFERENCE SLIDES
Moral Foundation — 6 Building Blocks

Liberty/Oppression: the loathing of tyranny
Care/Harm: cherishing & protecting others
Fairness/Cheating: rendering justice according to shared rules
Loyalty/Betrayal: standing with your group, family, nation
Authority/Subversion: obeying tradition & legitimate authority
Sanctity/Degradation: abhorrence for disgusting actions, things, foods

Source: The Righteous Mind by Jonathan Haidt
Moral Foundations

THE RIGHTEOUS MIND
WHY GOOD PEOPLE ARE DIVIDED BY POLITICS AND RELIGION
JONATHAN HAIDT

Moral Foundations Questionnaire

Strongly endorse

Fairness
Care
Authority
Sanctity
Loyalty
Fairness
Care

Strongly reject

Very liberal
Liberal
Slightly liberal
Moderate
Slightly conservative
Conservative
Very conservative

Graph showing endorsement levels of different moral foundations across political spectrum.
Benefits of Dividends to US Households

• U Mass Amherst May 2017
  • dividends protect the purchasing power of 89% of those in the bottom half of the distribution

• US Treasury Analysis Jan 2017
  • Bottom 70% of Americans come out ahead under a carbon dividends program

• International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis—Feb 2016
  • 58% of Americans come out ahead with nearly 90% of the households living below the Federal Poverty Level benefiting from the policy
ANALYSIS
REMI - Regional Economic Models, Inc.

• non-partisan economic modeling group
• respected - and used - by both sides of the aisle and the US government

ARGUMENTS AGAINST PRICING CO2

• DK how much GW is caused by man, or a universally accepted SCC
• Other GW contributors are big (i.e. land use)
• DK how much pricing carbon would help GW or correct emission path
• Disruption of established industries/jobs
• Hurts low income (w/o dividend)
3 PRICING SOLUTIONS:

- CAP & TRADE (EMISSIONS TRADING)
- REVENUE-NEUTRAL – DIVIDEND MODEL
- REVENUE-NEUTRAL – INCOME TAX OFFSET MODEL
REVENUE-NEUTRAL PRICE (RNP) vs. C&T & CPP

POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONSEQUENCE/POLICY</th>
<th>RNP</th>
<th>C&amp;T</th>
<th>CPP*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Covers each point of consumption - each source of GhG</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevents export of pollution and jobs</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transparent &amp; Predictable</td>
<td>YES**</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increases US economy &amp; jobs</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easily replicable internationally</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allows for reduced regulations</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consistent national policy</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>Depends</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Stand-in for any regulations **Ideally it’s also gradual
## REVENUE-NEUTRAL PRICE vs. C&T & CPP
### AVOIDED NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONSEQUENCE/POLICY</th>
<th>RNP</th>
<th>C&amp;T</th>
<th>CPP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Growth in government oversight &amp; regulation</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity for corruption in weaker international states</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>N/A*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunity for market manipulation</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Not replicable internationally
# REVENUE-NEUTRALITY OPTIONS

**Household Dividend vs Income Tax Offset**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EFFECT\POLICY</th>
<th>DIVIDEND</th>
<th>ITO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater acceptance on the right (S/T viability)</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lasting constituency (L/T viability)</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offset regressive nature of higher energy prices</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L/T Revenue Neutrality?</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater increase in GDP*</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Both increase GDP*