

I'm a registered Republican in Oregon and a member of Trout Unlimited. I'm greatly concerned about the long-term impact of climate change on cold-water fisheries in our state: Trout Unlimited scientists foresee a 50% drop in streams habitable by cold-water species like cutthroat trout by 2040. The problem is global in scope and requires a serious national commitment. Previous attempts to address this issue state-wide, in the Oregon legislature, were fraught with practical problems. In my opinion those Oregon initiatives deserved to fail because they wouldn't have addressed the global nature of this problem.

My understanding is that this amendment urges the federal government to enact carbon-fee-and-dividend legislation to address global climate change. This is a much more promising approach than incremental state-wide initiatives. Placing a price on carbon is the fairest, most universal, most powerful mechanism that we have, for it harnesses the power of the free market to address climate change. The dividend portion of the supported legislation is intriguing and perhaps its most noteworthy feature. It shields those portions of the population most vulnerable to economic costs of a carbon tax (and there certainly will be costs: no free lunches here). It is a legislative concept that I, as a Republican, can support because it has real kick to it, and it doesn't rely on government bureaucrats to pick winners-and-losers. I urge you to support this amendment, and send a clear, unambiguous, bi-partisan message to our federal legislators.

Thank you.
- Eric Means