

As a 4th and 5th grade teacher I am asked to teach facts. The facts of reading, writing, math, social studies and science. Of course we also try to teach respect and kindness to yourself and others, but we spend most of our time teaching facts. Some facts are more difficult to teach than others. Students see the growing number of fires in Oregon and the polar bears stranded on melting polar ice caps and ask, "what are we doing about it?" They see humans have developed amazing technologies and vaccines to combat covid-19, so they ask , " what are we doing to solve climate change?" Unfortunately, there is not much I can say.

I can discuss ideas of what we COULD do, but there is not much to say about what we are doing. We discuss alternative energy sources, like wind and solar, that can help decrease the production of greenhouse gasses. Since global warming is a world wide problem, we have some discussions that it is up to our representatives in government to help solve this problem. They know that we adults, who have caused this problem, can see ways to solve the problem, and they wonder why we are not taking action to FIX the problem. We have to ask ourselves, will we be the people who recognized the problem of climate change, had capabilities to combat it, but we made the choice to do nothing? Will we create the problem but leave it for future generations to deal with? Will our children ask why we were so selfish and lazy that we did nothing, or will they be proud and hopeful in the work we did to turn it around? Global warming is not happening To us; it is a choice we are making.

One action that can be taken on the political front is to advance effective federal climate policy through a bipartisan bill that has a substantive price on carbon. The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act is an exemplary bill that creates an equal economic incentive for producers to reduce their carbon footprint. The choice to return the funds collected by the fee as a dividend ensures that American households, especially low income households, will not be negatively impacted by the legislation. The border adjustment ensures that the bill will not impact the competitiveness of U.S. (or Oregon) goods internationally and will pressure other countries to adopt similar carbon pricing policies. The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act is more appealing than other forms of federal climate policy because it does not add new regulations, nor does it require increased federal spending.

The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act is a win for Oregon, a win for the United

States and a win for now and future generations. Oregon's decision to pass Senate Joint Memorial 5 is a critical step forward for this legislation. To combat global warming now, or leave it as a devastating problem for our children and grand children IS a choice--let's make the right choice.

Beth Hinson

Dundee, Oregon