

Literally, there is no better time to help save planet Earth than today.

The Earth is a miraculous combination of heat, materials, and time that created the perfect melting pot for life to form and grow. As human civilization has expanded, it has relied on one seemingly infinite resource: energy. More specifically, energy from fossil fuels like coal, petroleum and others have been a staple to human development. However, burning huge amounts of fossil fuels to supply the necessary energy to sustain our lives has taken a toll on the Earth. This puts carbon emissions into the atmosphere and oceans, which will combine to make the Earth uninhabitable for humans. Our planet is calling out for our help, and we can help her, through a carbon tax. We have a unique window that allows us to enact a carbon tax that will be most effective right now. Our Earth has graciously allowed us to use her resources to our benefit, but now comes the time where we must return the gift of our livelihood.

Before discussing how a carbon tax will help our dire environmental circumstances, a plan for a carbon tax must first be laid out. Former prominent Republicans, such as James A. Baker III and George P. Schultz, have created the Climate Leadership Council, and laid out their plan for a carbon tax. According to their plan, there will be a fee for emitting a given amount of carbon emissions into the atmosphere. The tax will be \$40 per ton emitted, and the tax will be applied at the source of creation of goods that produce carbon emissions. In total, the tax will raise around \$200 billion in revenue. The money raised from this tax will be sent to Social Security, where it will be returned to American families in the form of a dividend. Overall, American families will receive around \$2,000 per year, spread out in monthly payments. This plan, albeit important, is notable less for its details and more for its sponsors. With icons from the Republican Party behind it, the opportunity to address climate change has never been more clear.

By introducing a carbon tax, energy companies will raise their prices on goods that produce carbon emissions, like oil, petroleum, and coal energy. Prices will be higher on families, but their dividends from the carbon tax revenue can be used to compensate for the higher

prices, eliminating the hardship the tax creates. In fact, with the dividends generated from the tax, the average family from the lower and middle classes will actually be making money from the tax, not losing. This tax will incentivize both Americans and corporations to conserve and emit less carbon. Americans will be rewarded for using less carbon from the money they receive from their monthly dividend. Meanwhile, corporations will try to aim to create products without using carbon emissions, to avoid paying the tax. However, this is not just a hypothesis. China has implemented a carbon tax in their 1994 restructuring of their tax code, and the results are promising. In a simulation done by Chinese statisticians, a \$35 tax per ton of carbon will reduce carbon emissions by 30%. When the tax is implemented, it will be a substitute for governmental regulations on companies concerning pollution, allowing them to continue to develop. A separate simulation showed that a carbon tax will at most lower gross national product by .45%, over 20 years. Ultimately, this tax plan will effectively reduce carbon emissions while diminishing economic downfalls from combatting climate change.

This carbon tax necessary to our continued thriving on this planet, and the time to implement it is ticking away. However, with the current political climate, is it the perfect time for a climate-stabilizing carbon tax. Politics are more polarizing than ever today. It seems the only thing factions in our government know how to do is disagree with one another. But, a carbon tax could be the compromise that breaks the dam of governmental stagnancy and releases the floods of change. In terms of climate change, Democrats and Republicans have been at each other's throats about how to effectively combat climate change. This carbon tax plan will remove repressive governmental regulations on businesses while still reducing our carbon emissions, addressing the worries of conservatives. The majority of Americans also support this plan. In a poll done by the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication found that 66% of registered voters support a carbon tax plan where the revenues from the tax are returned to families to reduce the economic stress of the tax on families. And, this plan will appease Democrats by creating legislation that will reduce carbon emissions. But who would present this plan? Who

better than Rex Tillerson, former CEO of the largest energy company in the world, Exxonmobil, to forge an agreement between 2 virtual countries, the Democrats and Republicans.

The Greeks have two words for time. The better known one, chronos, has the same meaning of time in the English language, to signify a part of the day or when to do something. But, the lesser known word for time in Greek is kairos, meaning the perfect time. Kairos is the time where all variables synchronize into the exact condition required. And right now, the conditions for the creation of legislation to rein back climate change are perfect. A plan that taxes companies on their output of carbon emissions, returns the revenues to American families, reduces carbon emissions, and helps promote economic growth is supported by both Democrats and Republicans. This mutual agreement to help heal our environment could be the beginning of a new era of political cooperation and the end of a bitter rivalry we all know too well. We are but the Earth's humble stewards. We have been given a home to thrive on, but we have neglected our living space. We must take responsibility for our treatment of our beloved home, and the kairos is now.