

Carbon tax, ... fee and dividend, .... Tax on carbon dioxide.....(whatever)

# The Prospects for National Legislation

Phil Nelson, Golden Chapter, Citizens Climate Lobby



**Citizens' Climate** Lobby

# The Presidential Contenders

# Marco Rubio opposes climate change measures

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia. — Marco Rubio told a crowd here that he does not support policy aimed at curbing climate change, saying Sunday it will “destroy” the American economy without helping the environment.

Rubio said that, as a lawmaker, he's been shown policies that would do nothing to change the sea level or the Earth's temperature, yet would cost “hundreds of thousands” of jobs and make America less competitive.

He also spoke against the Paris climate change conference in December, ..... “I would have turned that into a world summit on defeating ISIS,” Rubio said.

The Des Moines Register, Jan 24, 2016

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/elections/presidential/caucus/2016/01/24/marco-rubio-opposes-climate-change-measures/79274914/>

# Florida Mayors Want To Give Bush And Rubio A Climate Science Lesson

Now, a group of Florida mayors are taking Florida Senator Rubio and former Governor Bush to task on their climate denial. Fifteen mayors from cities in South Florida — including Miami, West Palm Beach, and Fort Lauderdale — [sent letters](#) to Rubio and Bush this week, calling on them to “acknowledge the reality and urgency of climate change and to address the upcoming crisis it presents our communities” and to meet with them within the next month to discuss climate change.

“Ignoring climate science and doubling down on fossil fuels will only make the climate crisis more rapid and expensive,” the mayors write in their [letter](#) to Bush. “With the presidential election fast approaching, it is critical that your positions on these issues are well informed by the experience of our communities.”

Miami Mayor Tomás Regalado—a Republican and a Rubio supporter--told the Herald that he and the rest of the mayors want to ensure that climate change is talked about more in the presidential race, and that the best way of doing that is to target candidates “closer to home” — i.e. those from Florida.

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2016/01/26/3742935/rubio-bush-florida-mayors-letter/>

## Wimberly flood victim travels to New Hampshire to ask candidates about climate change

In his speeches, Cruz says that climate change is a political ploy by liberal scientists and politicians to enact more control over the lives of citizens through regulation of emissions and energy use.

When he approaches the topic on the stump, he prefaces his stance by saying he is the son of two scientists, “a mathematician and a computer programmer,” and that public policy about climate should follow the science.

The science he refers to is a collection of satellite and weather balloon data spanning 18 years, beginning in 1998, which he says show no significant warming.

Denton Record-Chronicle 8 Feb 2016

# Senator Bernie Sanders on climate change

DES MOINES, IOWA — Bernie Sanders shut down a teenage girl as the teen crowd at Theodore Roosevelt High School broke into applause.

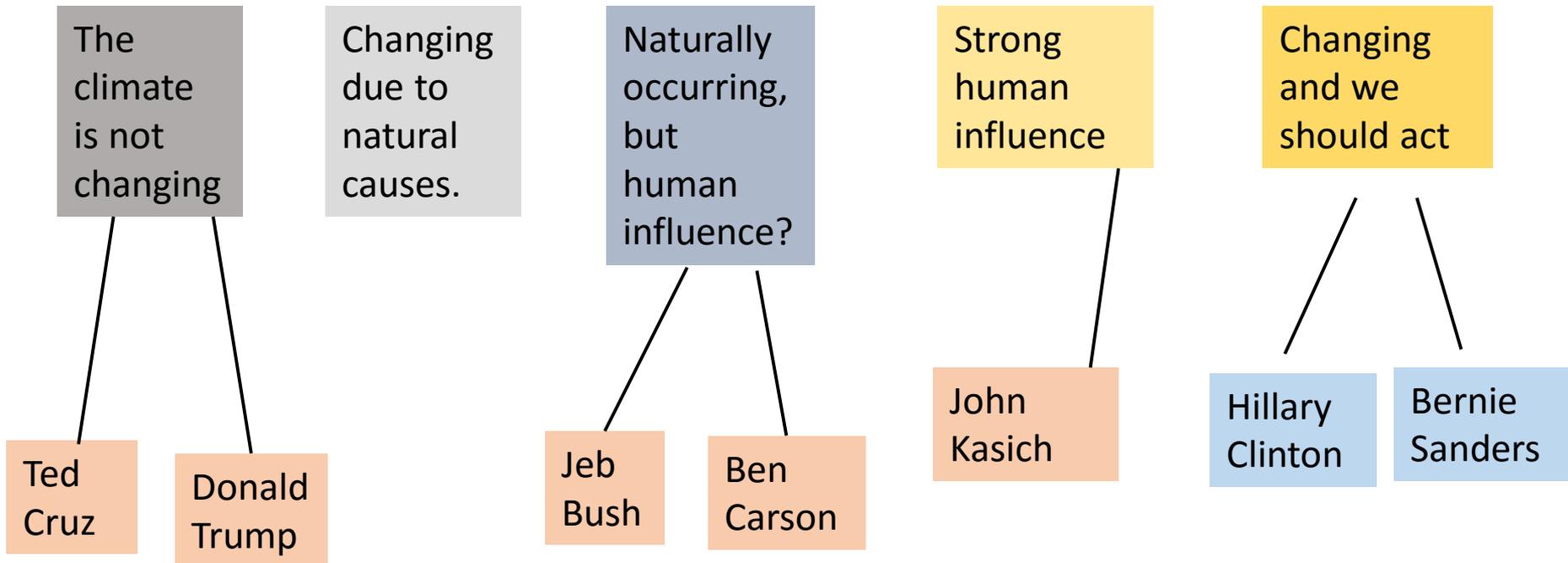
Sanders then walked through his long record of support for climate change legislation in Congress and the consensus of the scientific community, which he described as "the most knowledgeable people in the world," that global warming is real.

"What they say almost unanimously, overwhelmingly, is that A, climate change is real, and B, it is caused by human activity," he said before warning about its "catastrophic" effects.

"I appreciate your point of view but I absolutely believe that climate change is real, it is caused by human activity and we need to transform our energy system away from fossil fuel," he said.

<http://mashable.com/2016/01/28/sanders-teen-climate-denier/#fx6qeXxzqZqw>

# Presidential Contenders: their views on climate change



# The United States Congress

## U.S. House of Representatives Safe Climate Caucus

“...fifty members of the US House of Representatives who have made a commitment to speak out about climate change. What unites us is the understanding that climate change is the moral issue of our time. We believe that we have an obligation to raise awareness of the hardships for future generations if Congress continues to ignore the realities of our changing climate.”

All are Democrats. Jared Polis and Diana DeGette are members. Ed Perlmutter is not a member. Chair is Alan Lowenthal, CA.

On Facebook, with current updates.

THE GIBSON RESOLUTION Expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to conservative environmental stewardship.

Whereas there is increasing recognition that we can and must take meaningful and responsible action now to address this issue: Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the House of Representatives commits to working constructively, ..... to study and address the causes and effects of measured changes to our global and regional climates, including mitigation efforts and efforts to balance human activities that have been found to have an impact.

Introduced by Congressman Chris Gibson, R-NY, September 2015, House Resolution 424

THE GIBSON RESOLUTION Expressing the commitment of the House of Representatives to conservative environmental stewardship.

Whereas there is increasing recognition that we can  
and must take full and responsible action now  
to address the climate crisis; and Whereas,  
That the House of Representatives is working  
consistently to address the climate crisis;  
and effects of increasing greenhouse gas emissions  
regional climates, including the effects of  
efforts to balance human activities that  
found to have an impact.

*Behind the scenes on the Gibson resolution:  
Friends Committee on National Legislation,  
CCL-Columbia County, New York,  
CCL-Washington DC,*

Introduced by Congressman Chris Gibson, R-NY, September 2015, House Resolution 424

## CCL praises formation of bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus -- Feb. 3, 2016

- “I am proud to serve as a Co-Chair of the Climate Solutions Caucus, the first bipartisan caucus to address climate change in the U.S. House of Representatives,” Rep. Curbelo (R, FL) said. “By exploring policy options that address the impacts of a changing climate we can effectively mitigate the inevitable effects it will have on our environment, as well as our economy.”
- “I commend my fellow Co-Chair, Congressman Ted Deutch (D, FL), for his unrelenting commitment to environmental stewardship. I look forward to working with him to ensure the protection of Florida’s communities and our nation as a whole.”

## Climate Solutions Caucus, continued...

Reps. Carlos Curbelo (R, FL) and Ted Deutch (D, FL)

- Deutch said he has no preconceptions as to what it may propose, .... topics can range from shoreline and city protection to carbon regulation. A key point of the new caucus is to move past the congressional stalemate that led to Obama's regulations to begin with.
- Curbelo said he would like to see the group gain additional members and produce some kind of blueprint for a clean energy bill relatively soon.
- "We need a bill to build some more consensus," he said. "I think within a month or six weeks, there will be, if not a bill, certainly the outline of a bill that will represent the first step."
- <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-02-11/can-only-congress-prevent-climate-change>

## Climate Solutions Caucus, continued...

Reps. Carlos Curbelo (R, FL) and Ted Deutch (D, FL)

- Deutch said he will propose, .... top protection to caucus is to m to Obama's re
- Curbelo said members an energy bill r
- "We need a think within certainly the step."
- <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-02-11/carl-curbelo-ted-deutch-introduce-climate-change>

Behind the scenes on the formation of Climate Solutions Caucus: CCL-Tampa, CCL-Washington DC, 5<sup>th</sup> grade class in Homestead Florida. Endorsements from mayors, commissioners, chamber of commerce leaders, state reps, and university presidents of south Florida.

# Senators Ayotte, Alexander, Kirk, and Graham Announce Energy and Environment Working Group

Oct 29, 2015

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today, U.S. Senators Kelly Ayotte (R-NH), Lamar Alexander (R-TN), Mark Kirk (R-IL) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) announced the formation of a Senate Energy and Environment Working Group that will focus on ways we can protect our environment and climate while also bolstering clean energy innovation that helps drive job creation. The group will meet periodically to discuss general energy and environmental issues and exchange ideas about potential legislation.

Senator Ayotte helped organize the group and is working to grow its membership among Senate Republicans who want to join the effort of making natural resource protection a national priority.

- [https://www.ayotte.senate.gov/?p=press\\_release&id=2286](https://www.ayotte.senate.gov/?p=press_release&id=2286)

# Colorado's Representatives and Senators

.....Recently, during the Senate Budget Resolution, I successfully pushed for an amendment to recognize the threats posed by man-made climate change. Please know that my first priority as your Senator is to find ways to help improve Colorado's environment and grow our economy. ....

Sincerely,

Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

Received 17 October 2015.

A response to an email petition.

In the interest of reducing environmental pollution, some groups and public officials have proposed imposing a carbon tax directly on emissions or fossil fuels. This tax would unfairly penalize American business owners and consumers purchasing goods from factories and manufacturers that emit carbon into the atmosphere. U.S. businesses rely on affordable and reliable electricity and according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, four-fifths of our energy use in the United States in 2011 came from fossil fuels. There are other ways to promote environmental conservation that do not require burdensome regulations and higher taxes that harm American businesses and jobs.

I do not support policies that stifle economic growth and hurt American taxpayers, businesses, and families. We would be better served advancing policies on clean energy development for our traditional energy and promoting renewable energy like wind and solar. For example, I have always been a strong proponent of Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs).....

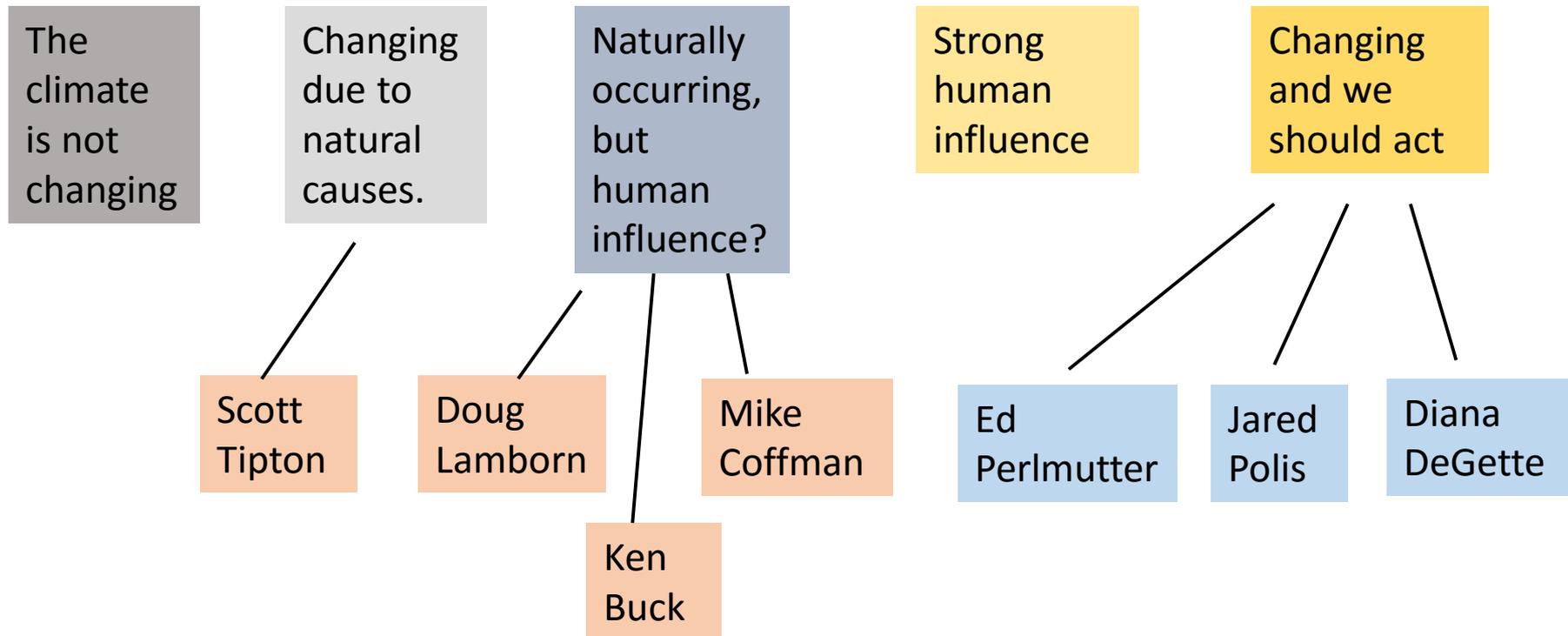
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cory Gardner", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Cory Gardner  
United States Senator

Letter received via email by J Ormes, January 2016

# Colorado Representatives: their views on climate change



# The 500-Letter Campaign

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Cory Gardner  
United States Senator

Letter received via email by J Ormes, January 2016

# Talking Points for Letters Addressed to Senator Gardner

- **First, show your appreciation for something he has done or is doing**
- Gardner quote in response to letters written to him by CCL members:
  - “I will continue to support policies that will allow our economy to grow.”
  - Another Gardner quote in response to letters written to him by CCL members: “It is our duty to ensure future generations have a cleaner environment tomorrow than we do today.”
- Senator Gardner is known for working across the aisle. Thank him.
- He was part of a bipartisan group that passed legislation increasing energy conservation in Federal buildings.
- He is concerned with national security, especially the refugee situation and terrorism.
- Thank him for repeatedly voting to protect funding for the Golden-based National Renewable Energy Laboratory and advocating for a paid-for extension of the Wind Production Tax Credit.

# Talking Points for Letters Addressed to Senator Gardner

- **Talking points in support of “revenue-neutral fee on carbon”**
- Suggest Senator Gardner approach the climate issue as risk management with a policy to hedge against the catastrophic predictions of climate science. Investors hedge against the uncertainties of financial markets, families purchase health and life insurance, so our government would be prudent to institute a revenue-neutral fee on carbon with the fee being returned to the public and therefore the economy.
- A conservative principle states that a main reason for government is to protect the life, liberty and property of all individuals. There is already evidence that greenhouse gas emissions are violating the life, liberty and property of U. S. citizens as well as the citizens all around the world.
- Senator Gardner is quite concerned about national security, vis-à-vis the refugee situation and terrorism. Write about the relationship of climate change and our national security as Retired Navy Rear Admiral David Titley has described. Quotes: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, July 5, 2014.
  - “The changing climate is a catalyst for conflict. The severe drought in the years leading up to the civil war in Syria didn’t cause the war, but it certainly served as a destabilizing factor.”
  - “Struggles for control of food, water and energy supplies escalate tensions between ethnic groups, religious groups and nations. And as we’re seeing in Iraq, ancient tensions can flare up into deadly conflict.”

# Talking Points for Letters Addressed to Senator Gardner

- Risk Management
- Protection of life, liberty, and property
- National Security
- Implemented in British Columbia and Alberta
- Counter the subsidy now given to fossil fuels
- Impact on the ski industry
- Current and pending refugee crisis
- Join the Senate Energy and Environment Working Group

The End

# Faith Communities

Remarks by Pope Francis at the White House,  
Wednesday, September 23, 2015, from CNN

When it comes to the care of our "common home", we are living at a critical moment of history. We still have time to make the changes needed to bring about "a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change" (Laudato Si', 13). Such change demands on our part a serious and responsible recognition not only of the kind of world we may be leaving to our children, but also to the millions of people living under a system which has overlooked them.....

We know by faith that "the Creator does not abandon us; he never forsakes his loving plan or repents of having created us. Humanity still has the ability to work together in building our common home" (Laudato Si', 13). As Christians inspired by this certainty, we wish to commit ourselves to the conscious and responsible care of our common home

## GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE BACKGROUND— UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS POSITION

The U.S. bishops promote prudent action predicated on justice to address the growing impact of global climate change. .... "Action to mitigate global climate change must be built upon a foundation of social and economic justice."

In [testimony](#) offered on November 18, 2015 at an EPA public hearing, Archbishop Thomas Wenski and Bishop Oscar Cantú ..... expressed support for a national standard to reduce carbon pollution and offered moral principles to guide the EPA and states as they take steps to reduce carbon pollution. These principles include: care for creation, promotion of the common good, respect for the human person, and a priority for those who are poor and vulnerable.

The bishops also support the international Green Climate Fund that will help developing nations shift towards a low-emission and climate resilient development, and help them adapt to the impacts of climate change. As Pope Francis wrote: Poor developing nations "require the help of countries which have experienced great growth at the cost of the ongoing pollution of the planet".

<http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/environment/climate-change-background.cfm>  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops web site, Jan 25, 2016.

# *Eco-Justice Notes*

## ***Praying for Change***

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People tell me of their efforts to get creation care on the agenda of their congregations. They have scheduled classes, written newsletter articles, tried to form a "green team", publicized local events, etc, etc..... And yet, all too often, the agenda does not change, and eco-justice concerns remain on the fringe of church life.

In most cases, there's no big conflict about it. .... Generally, folk in the church know something about local and global environmental crises, and they are concerned, but it just doesn't take hold in the life and ministry of the congregation.

The environment just doesn't seem to be one of those things that churches see as part of their territory. We're glad that other people are working on it, but we don't do it here.

<http://www.eco-justice.org/E-160122.asp>

- Protecting our Colorado way of life means protecting our environment.
- We have no more time for silly debates. The climate is changing, we are causing it, the consequences are alarming and we had better make an effort to tread more lightly across this Earth.
- Our Colorado way of life—and the billions we get from tourists who come here to enjoy the Colorado way of life—are at risk if every winter our ski season gets shorter and every spring our snowmelt fails to fill the reservoirs and every summer our forests burn.
- These are the impacts of climate change.
- You will see a bill to include specific goals in our state's climate action plan to reduce our carbon footprint and help us bend the curve on climate change. Let's pass this bill.
- Opening day of Colorado Legislature, remarks by House Speaker Dickey Lee Hullinghorst, reported by Denver Post, 1/12/2016.

# Yale Project on Climate Change Communication, 2014

Estimated percentage of adults in U.S.

who think global warming is happening: 63%

who think global warming is mostly caused by human beings: 48%

who believe most scientists think global warming is happening: 41%