



Citizens' Climate Lobby

Make the Climate a Bridge Issue, not a Wedge Issue

We believe the best way to do that is to cosponsor the bipartisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act when it is reintroduced in the Senate. Americans do not lack for topics that wedge us apart. These days, it's harder to name topics that unite us. This is too bad, because strong majorities of Americans (78%) say they want elected officials to cooperate across political lines, to be respectful to each other, and to compromise. Bipartisan legislators see real boosts to their reputations from such behavior, as they are perceived as listening to voters, and less self interested. Further, opposite party voters like legislators better when they bridge the partisan divide.

It's time politicians started treating climate as a bridge issue. There are real political benefits to be gained, and the physics of the climate, graphically highlighted in the recent special report on a 1.5°C target from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), make clear that it's time to act.

The most impactful action you can take to make climate an issue that bridges the political divide and can survive election cycles is:

- **Cosponsor the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, introduced last Congress by Senators Coons and Flake, when it is reintroduced in the Senate.** The IPCC report recently affirmed that pricing carbon is a key step in addressing the problem.

There is a growing list of public statements of support for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. These statements span the political spectrum from environmental organizations, businesses, faith traditions, and others. You can find them at **energyinnovationact.org/statements**.

Over the last 11 years Citizens' Climate Lobby has grown to include over 130,000 committed supporters by emphasizing our values of appreciation and respect. We have shown these are principles around which you can build a movement. We ask you to embrace these values as well, and in particular on the challenge of climate change. This is an issue that we can no longer afford to ignore.

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