

AGRON 504 – Term Paper Outline

Tentative Title:

GHG Emissions Reduction Challenges: Legislative Barriers to Implementing a Carbon Tax in the U.S. Paper Outline

- a. What and why of a carbon tax?
 - i. 1997 Kyoto Protocol - GHG emissions mitigation strategy.
 - ii. U.S. Senate resistance- (1997) resolution passed.
 - iii. What is a carbon tax really? Who pays? How does it work?
 - iv. What countries (Finland, Netherlands, etc.) have a carbon tax and results of implementation?
 - v. EU alternative: carbon trading system
 - vi. Canada implements first N. American carbon tax (2009)
- b. Specific Barriers to U.S. policy on carbon tax implementation
 - i. 1997 U.S. bill “Climate Stewardship Act”.
 - ii. 2005 Energy Policy Act legislated
 - iii. First proposed U.S. Carbon Tax Bill (2007)- J. Dingwell.
 - iv. U.S. already using cap-n-trade for “other” emissions/pollutants.
 - v. Affect of previous failure of “BTU tax” in 1993 (Clinton).
 - vi. Discussion of literature review’s four principal criteria for evaluating environmental policy: environmental effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, distributional considerations, and institutional feasibility.
 - vii. Political barriers to a carbon tax, and results of recent study on hypothetical impacts of tax (2007).
- c. Alternatives to Carbon Tax as emission mitigation strategy
 - i. Cap-n-Trade, etc.
 - ii. Current Obama Administration’s Position.
 - iii. Current U.S. emissions reduction strategy
- d. Conclusion, Recommendations and Potential Policy Implications
 - i. I will provide my own input into future recommendations, and discuss my own perspectives on barriers. I will provide any additional barriers that I feel were not mentioned in the research I did, and implications of these. This will be my Contribution area.

References: Found on ISI Web of Knowledge and Web of Science (ISU Library)

1. Richard D. Morgenstern, Mun Ho, Jhih-Shyang Shih, et al. (2004). The near-term impacts of carbon mitigation policies on manufacturing industries. *Energy Policy*, 32 (2004) 1825–1841.
2. Barker, T. & Etkins, P. (2001). Carbon Taxes and Carbon Emissions Trading. *Journal of Economic Surveys*, 15(3), 325-376.

3. Congressional Budget Office *Policy Options for Reducing CO₂ Emissions*: Retrieved on February 18, 2009, from <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/89xx/doc8934/02-12-Carbon>
4. Carbon Tax Center (2007). *Why revenue-neutral carbon taxes are essential, what's happening now, and how you can help*. Retrieved on February 11, 2009, from <http://www.carbontax.org/>
5. Gopal Bandyopadhyay, Fathollah Bagheri, Michael Mann. (2007). *Reduction of fossil fuel emissions in the USA: A holistic approach towards policy formation*. *Energy Policy* 35 (2007) 950–96.
6. U. S. Energy Information Administration: Prepared for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science (1998). *What does the Kyoto Protocol Mean to U.S Energy Markets and the U.S. Economy?* Retrieved on February 18, 2009, from <http://www.eia.doe.gov/neic/press/press109.html>
7. Pelley, J. *First Sweeping Carbon Tax in North America*. *Environmental Science & Technology*, Retrieved on February 9, 2009, from <http://pubs.acs.org>
8. Pelley, J. *Carbon cap or tax*. *Environmental Science & Technology*, Retrieved on February 14, 2009, from <http://pubs.acs.org>