###### **Source 1**

###### Davis, L. W. & Kilian, L. (2011). Estimating the effect of a gasoline tax on carbon emissions. J. Appl. Econ., 26: 1187-1214. doi:[10.1002/jae.1156](https://doi.org/10.1002/jae.1156)

###### Their preferred estimates imply that a 10 cent tax increase would decrease U.S. carbon emissions from the transportation sector by about 1.5 percent and decrease total U.S. carbon emissions by about 0.5 percent. To put this estimate in context, total U.S. carbon dioxide emissions increased by 1.1 percent annually between 1990 and 2007, so a 10 cent gasoline tax increase would approximately offset half a year of growth in total U.S. emissions. In the short-run, drivers can adjust discretionary driving patterns, drive slower, for example, or improve fuel efficiency by increasing tire pressure.

###### In the long term, one would expect to see widespread substitution toward more fuel-efficient vehicles, some of which may not even be available when the tax is first implemented. Because the vehicle stock turns over slowly, the full impact of a tax change will not be realized for many years. Likewise households may choose to move closer to their workplace in an effort to cut down on commuting or they may demand improved public transportation.

###### These short and long-run changes in the transportation sector are important because nearly 40 percent of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States come from vehicles. Even very large changes in gasoline consumption in the United States, however, would have only a modest impact on global emissions. Carbon dioxide emissions in the United States are growing less quickly than emissions in other countries, most notably China, India, and Brazil. By 2030, according to predictions from the U.S. Department of Energy, the United States will represent only 16 percent of total world carbon dioxide emissions.

***Source 2***

American Energy Alliance (2015). 10 reasons to oppose a carbon tax. Retrieved from: <https://www.americanenergyalliance.org/2015/11/10-reasons-to-oppose-a-carbon-tax/>

*A “carbon tax” is a tax on energy. Through July 2015, over 80 percent of domestic energy consumption came from natural gas, oil, and coal. A carbon tax would impose an indirect tax on these fuels due to their carbon dioxide emissions. Below are ten reasons carbon taxes should be opposed:*

*1). It is a tax on transportation fuels like gasoline and most forms of electricity – 67 percent of our electricity comes from natural gas, coal, and oil. By design, a carbon tax will make affordable energy more expensive. Americans will see their utility bills increase under a carbon tax. To repeat, this is the purpose of a carbon tax: to make the existing energy infrastructure more expensive, forcing Americans to change how they live and work.*

*2). It will increase the cost of goods and services – More expensive energy means more expensive goods and services. The costs associated with higher energy prices will be passed onto consumers through more expensive goods across all sectors of the economy.*

*3). It disproportionately hurts low income communities and seniors – The carbon tax is by nature regressive, because it will raise the prices of gasoline, electricity, and other goods by the same dollar amount for all consumers, regardless of their incomes. This disproportionately affects the poor, because energy costs are a bigger portion of their overall budgets. A carbon tax will therefore hurt low-income families and seniors more than it will hurt middle- and upper-class households.*

*4). It may increase air pollution – More expensive energy in America will force companies, particularly those in manufacturing and energy-intensive industries, to shift business operations and the jobs they support overseas. Often times, these countries, such as China and India, have weaker environmental standards and less efficient methods of production. Less stringent standards in these countries are already causing pollution from China to cross the Pacific Ocean and negatively affect the West Coast. A carbon tax would shift more production to these countries, leading to more air pollution.*

***Source 3***

*Carbon Tax Center. (2019). What’s a carbon tax? Retrieved from:* <https://www.carbontax.org/whats-a-carbon-tax/>

*A carbon tax is a fee imposed on the burning of carbon-based fuels (coal, oil, gas). More to the point: a carbon tax is the core policy for reducing and eventually eliminating the use of fossil fuels whose combustion is destabilizing and destroying our climate.*

*A carbon tax is a way — the only way, really — to have users of carbon fuels pay for the climate damage caused by releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. If set high enough, it becomes a powerful monetary disincentive that motivates switches to clean energy across the economy, simply by making it more economically rewarding to move to non-carbon fuels and energy efficiency.*

**TIMED WRITING EXAM: 2.5 HOURS**

*Choose a side on the following issue and write a 5-paragraph essay to explain and support your opinion. Paraphrase information from the readings I provided as a significant part of your support. When you use information from these sources, please cite it using the author and the date of publication. You have two and a half hours to complete this assignment. When you are finished, save your work and submit it on Canvas.*

***Topic: Should the USA have a carbon tax on gasoline?***

**Your writing will be scored based on the following criteria:**

o Do you have an effective introduction with a clear thesis statement?

o Do your body paragraphs each have a topic sentence and logical supporting details?

o Do you make an effective argument?

o Is your information paraphrased from the sources without plagiarizing?

o Do you have limited errors in grammar and word choice?

o Do you have limited errors in spelling, capital letters and punctuation?

***Format:***

*Write your name and course name in the upper left-hand corner of the essay, and give your paper a title. Indent the first line of each new paragraph and double-space your work.*

***----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------***

*John Smith*

*EWR 005*

*Interesting Title Here*

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