

1. Hello! I'm so happy to be here. Thank you for inviting me today to speak on behalf of Citizens Climate Lobby.
2. CCL is a network of volunteers like me, Ginny, Nancy, and Clark, who come from all walks of life, working towards a national solution on climate change. We have 549 chapters and 138,000 members.

I know that Dr. Pollack spoke here in May about climate change and the need for urgent action, so I'm going to skip right to what CCL is trying to do.

3. The president and founder of CCL is Marshall Saunders, a philanthropist who worked for years to address hunger and poverty with government officials. He said, "I used to think the important people were taking care of the important problems. I don't think that anymore. Preserving a livable world is up to us little people."
4. Climate change started to alarm him back in 2006, so he founded CCL.
5. The April issue of The Rotarian, which was dedicated to climate change, had a wonderful article,
6. called, "why climate change is Rotary's business," where President Barry Rassin says, the environment isn't one of Rotary's six areas of focus, but it's deeply intertwined with each of them: You look at our polio eradication program: it's successful because Rotarians were able to talk to the right people, and give the right support. If we did that with the environment, governments would listen to us." Which is true, and why I'm eager to speak with you today. The Rotarian also featured us in this article,
7. "'Tackling a Contentious Issue in Rancorous Times, the Citizens Climate Lobby Brings an Even-handed Approach to Advocacy– (Friendly Persuasion): you might call it the Rotary way."
8. I understand the Rotary way is service above self and dedication to making the world a better place. I believe our mutual goals are very similar. (image The Four-Way Test – of the things we think, say, or do: 1. Is it the TRUTH? 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned? 3. Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?)
9. Marshall, who also was a Rotarian, realized that "ordinary people have to organize, give up our hopelessness and powerlessness, and gain the skills to be effective with our government."

His values are deeply infused into CCL, and because of this,

10. We, as ordinary citizens, sit down to have civil conversations with people who agree with us, -- -- AS WITH THOSE WHO DON'T, looking for common ground. We are nonpartisan, building relationships around climate action, rather than treating it as a divisive issue.
11. (same slide) We foster mutual respect in our conversations, and we are optimistic that we will succeed.
12. Legislation won't pass without both major parties in Congress, so CCL has been working to build bipartisan relationships through the
13. Climate Solutions Caucus. This is a 50/50 mix of Democrats and Republicans by design, because they have to join in pairs.
In only the first 2 years that Trump was in office, they went from only 15 members to 90 members, half red half blue.
14. (same slide) By November last year, we had more Republicans on the CLIMATE SOLUTIONS CAUCUS than there were in the Freedom caucus.
15. There is now a bipartisan carbon dividends bill in the House. It's HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividends Act, cosponsored by 39 members of congress, and growing. Our mission at CCL is to build political will to pass legislation.
16. The goal, which is to STOP the climate crisis, means that the rate of CO2 emissions from coal, oil, and gas, have to be reduced.
17. The IPCC says we have to think big and act quickly, cutting emissions in half in 12 years and to zero by 2050 in order to avoid the dire consequences in which earth's climate — and human society — face repeated, widespread, unmanageable disruption, and millions of lives are at stake.
18. (same slide) This phenomenal u-turn in how much CO2 we emit means
19. we need to transition our entire economy away from fossil fuels to renewable energy as fast as possible.
20. In an unusual move, the IPCC declared that a high price on carbon would be necessary to achieve this.
21. These are interesting numbers: All of these economic leaders signed a statement in support, not just of carbon pricing in general, mind you, but specifically Carbon Dividends. Signers include 3,554 Economists from Universities across the country, ALL

of our former chairs of the Federal Reserve, so that's Greenspan, Bernanke, Volker and Yellen,

- 22.(same slide) plus 27 Nobel Laureate Economists, 15 Former chairs of the council of Economic Advisers, and 2 former secretaries of the US Department of Treasury, all advocating Carbon Dividends.
- 23.Canada also instituted a carbon dividend for its four remaining provinces, and now all of Canada is pricing carbon.

This is an idea whose time has come.

- 24.With the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, We will get a 40% reduction in emissions in the next 12 years.
It's going to CREATE jobs and be good for people. It also is a revenue neutral, bipartisan approach.
- 25.Bill Nye made a funny visit to late night TV to explain the the logic of carbon pricing; he said it's this simple: When something costs more, people buy less of it. Getting into more detail,
- 26.This bill, HR 763, charges a fee at the source: the mine, well, or first point of sale. Why?
- 27.This is the most recent EPA chart of US greenhouse gas emissions by sector. A simple gasoline tax
<click> would only target 29% of the FULL SCALE of emissions. You want to assess the fees where the fossil fuels first hit the economy so the
<click> electrical grid,
<click> industrial energy, and the natural gas that
<click> heats our buildings and homes also gets reduced.
- 28.(same slide) It's easy to collect these fees because we know how much CO2 and methane come out of any fossil fuel when we burn it, so we don't need a new infrastructure to test for emissions on every smokestack and tailpipe, because all emissions are downstream from the fee, so it's all covered.
- 29.The fee starts intentionally low so as to not shock the economy, at \$15.00 per ton of CO2 emitted, but it
- 30.increases annually by \$10 per year.

31. This steady and predictable increase allows cities, industries, and investors to know how quickly fuel prices are going to rise so they can plan how to reduce costs BEFORE the fee becomes substantial. And here is the key: reducing energy COSTS also reduces EMISSIONS ,
32. (same slide) but the decisions about how to go about reducing costs, and thus emissions, are left up to individuals and businesses, not regulations or government. This is a market-based approach, which appeals to conservatives and libertarians.
33. Now, it's no secret that Republicans don't talk much about addressing climate change and are less likely to believe in it. Several studies suggest something interesting: when Democrats and Republicans were told about climate change and then given EITHER
34. a free market OR a regulatory solution, the Democrats tended to believe climate change was a problem regardless [click] of the solution they were offered. The Republicans, on the other hand, were FAR MORE likely to believe it was a problem that needed solving when the
35. market solution was offered, and FAR LESS likely to believe there IS a climate crisis <click>, when regulatory solutions were proposed. Solution aversion is the technical term for actually BELIEVING less in the significance of a problem when one feels the cure is worse than the disease.
36. Because bipartisan support is critical to getting and MAINTAINING legislation across different administrations regardless of party affiliation, the common ground [click] we should be looking at is market solutions.
37. With a carbon price, power companies will need to get the lowest prices by switching to renewables. As an example, Atlanta made strong climate goals, but they won't be able to reach them unless their utility company uses more renewables, which they are declining to do.
38. The director of resource-planning at Georgia Power said it was basic economics; they are bound by state legislators to make decisions by prioritizing cost. They've moved away from coal because natural gas is cheaper. He said if government were to put a price on carbon, thus making renewables cheaper than natural gas, Georgia Power would move in that direction. Because money talks.
39. With a price on carbon, energy conservation becomes a matter of saving money. Wasting energy starts to mean wasting more and more money.

Reducing emissions doesn't have to hinge on getting everybody to be so aware of climate change and so worried about it that they each do their own small part every day to save the planet –

40. instead, there's simply a financial incentive, and people and businesses always try to save money.

41. People will find ways to use less fuel:

Drive less because gas prices will steadily be going up.
ride the bus, combine errands,

42. ride a bike, a moped, an electric car.

43. Energy is wasted everywhere: In our homes: almost 40% of our residential energy is spent on heating and cooling, 20% of which is wasted because buildings leak.

90% of the energy of washing your clothes goes into heating the water. Washing in cold cuts energy dramatically. Incandescent bulbs convert less than 5% of the energy they consume into light, while the rest is wasted.

44. There is similar waste in every device and automobile we currently use, as well as our electrical power grid.

So using energy-efficient appliances and LEDs, will save money in a noticeable way.

45. Industries with solar panels and lower energy costs can sell their products cheaper, giving them a competitive advantage.

And when businesses make SMALL changes, they can be significantly magnified by scale. For example, UPS

46. discovered that if they re-routed trucks to avoid left turns across traffic, not only did they save money by using a lot less fuel, but they now emit 20,000 tons less carbon dioxide

47. that was a small change in efficiency that was magnified by scale. Economists love carbon fees because hundreds of millions of people making decisions, both big AND SMALL, every day, makes a HUGE impact.

so who's going to help us save money in the new economy?

48. Innovators. Innovators will find ways to reduce energy waste and save people money.

Ann Arbor Spark is working with many entrepreneurs who are, for example, designing

new styles of lower-profile wind turbines, more efficient solar cells, remote air conduction sensors to improve building efficiencies, etc.

49. Los Alamos researchers are working on bigger, better-producing, easier-to-harvest algae to make biofuels for airplanes that won't be realistically powered by batteries.

50. If we had a price on carbon, there would be a lot more incentive for things like this to get to market. Investors would be eager to get a piece of the action. Right now, the economics aren't in their favor, so many promising technologies we hear about remain underfunded and underdeveloped.

51. So we've collected billions of dollars in carbon fees. What do we do with it?

52. We divide it into equal shares and send it out as monthly dividends to all Americans. One share per adult, ½ share per child.

53. But why give the money away instead of funding public transportation or paying down the debt?

54. First, because putting it toward anything like that changes the fee into a tax. When the government takes money and chooses how to spend it, that's a tax. What WE'RE advocating is a FEE from carbon sources that is given to people. It can be seen, if you like, as a partial reimbursement from the industry for the externalized costs the public has been incurring

55. for decades due to fossil fuel's downstream pollution and its harm to health and home. But it's not a tax; The opposite of tax is revenue neutral, and the dividend makes this revenue neutral, meaning it doesn't grow the size or scope of government.

56. Why do we care whether it's revenue neutral or not? Because there are currently

57. 47 senators and 169 sitting members of Congress who signed the Americans for Tax Reform pledge to vote against any bill that increases taxes. Revenue neutrality combined with the free market approach are the two things that give this bill appeal to Republicans.

58. But Democrats should ALSO support the dividend because it protects the poor and middle class from the expenses of the transition.

59. This graph compares carbon footprints of different income levels.

You can ignore the colors; just look at the height differences. These bars show average per person emissions for the 5 quintiles of income, <click> (1,2,3,4, and 5)

60. plus an additional bar on the right for incomes at the top 2%, because they have extra-large greenhouse emissions.

<click>

61. Higher income households on the right on average are responsible for more pollution – because on average, they own larger houses which use more energy to heat, they fly more, and they tend to – <click>

62. Have more stuff. 64% of our fossil fuel consumption is embedded in the products we buy.

The energy used by the top 2%ers on the right, is four times the energy use of the lowest income Americans, there on the left. [click]

63. What that means is that when people <click>

who emit less carbon get their monthly dividend checks, it will offset their smaller increase in expenses.

In fact, 2/3 of households, which turn out to be the lowest-income Americans, are projected to break even or receive more in their dividend checks than they will pay extra due to price increases.

64. Money in their pocket. It's kind of a reward for being carbon virtuous, but note that having extra money left over is going to happen to anybody whose emissions are on the low side -- on AVERAGE it will be lower income people, but there's no reason anybody HAS to pay more than the dividend offsets – it's all about how much pollution you're responsible for.

65. Most people will spend this stimulus locally on food, restaurants, clothes, school supplies – so job growth in local neighborhoods, is projected to grow by 2.1 million jobs over the next 10 years, with the lowest 3 economic quintiles gaining the largest share of new jobs.

66. Contrast that to the gas tax in France that caused riots. The money went to the government for deficit reduction. It was seen as just another tax, just another thing that cost everybody more money, even if you were barely making ends meet. No wonder there were riots.

67. The dividend makes all the difference.

68. But why does it have to be equal?

69. Equal is transparent and hard to cheat – everybody's dividend is exactly the same.

70. Equal, because if some people get more than others, opposition will come from all sides because some group will be disadvantaged. Who decides who "deserves" it most, and how do recipients prove they're part of that group?

71. Equal is less expensive. Distributing the refund evenly in monthly checks would be done similarly to the way tax stimulus packages and Alaskan oil rebates are handled. The infrastructure already exists.

72. Equal because we all breathe polluted air, we all live on a planet that is hurting.

73. So that's it. carbon fee and dividend. The bill also includes a border adjustment for non-pricing countries to keep our industries competitive.

74. Lastly, this bill has a limited regulatory pause, which means no utility-facing clean power plan regulations for 10 years. The restrictions are limited, which I can explain later if you're interested.

75. And the final result would be jobs, lives saved from climate pollution and particulates that aggravate asthma and cause heart and lung problems and cancers, and bipartisan appeal.

With 40% reduction of emissions in 12 years, this powerful mechanism will do most of the heavy lifting to get us to the 50% we need, and it's an essential first step.

76. There are many individual actions we can all take to reduce our own emissions – buy fewer things, conserve energy, and eat less meat.

77. But there is no way out with national legislation. We at CCL believe that one of the most impactful things any of us can do is to get legislation passed by building political will – in other words, raising the volume of the demand for action. This means talking about climate change, even just to family and friends.

78. Writing op-eds. We would appreciate endorsements of HR763 from any of you as community leaders. Donating a token amount to each of the Democratic candidates who highlights climate as a priority, so they talk about it at the televised Democratic debates.

79. You can join us in a meeting with your member of congress here in district or make an appointment to see them yourself. If any of you want to know more or get involved in ANY way, please see me or any of the four of us, or take my card.
80. This quote from a conservative columnist resonated with me. Kathleen Parker writes, "Finding out that 1 million species face extinction without radical, corrective changes in human behavior is akin to finding out you have a fatal disease. One day you have a thousand problems; the next, you have just one. Nothing in today's headlines compares to the catastrophic potential posed by climate change"
81. It will feel good if we can be sitting on the right trajectory, knowing we've managed to steer this big old ship around the iceberg
82. and that our kids and grandkids,
83. and all the other people we care about, will be shielded from the worst of it.
84. Here's hoping WE will be the New Greatest Generation –the one that fought and won for the planet. It's definitely possible. But we can no longer delay.
85. Thank you for your time, and we can take questions if you like.