Carbon dividend for all  

Peter Fairley’s Feb. 2 article, 'Washington state plan would slash emissions,' highlights the importance of moving beyond vague pledges that fail to establish binding requirements to reduce carbon emissions.

Oregon’s utilities anticipate rising natural gas use through 2040. We need to push in the opposite direction. I call on Rep. Peter DeFazio, Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley to support enacting a carbon fee and dividend.

A practical, clear path to address the climate crisis, a carbon fee and dividend would force polluters to bear the cost of their impact on air and water quality while distributing the proceeds to the communities that bear the brunt of excess emissions. The dividend would help low- and middle-income households by putting money directly into people’s pockets.

A carbon fee on fossil fuels will drive down pollution by transitioning industry, utilities and consumers toward cleaner, less expensive options. To protect U.S. manufacturers and jobs, imported goods should be assessed a border carbon adjustment — something U.S. exports to the E.U. soon will be facing.

A viable climate change solution needs to be big and it needs to be lasting — and it needs to happen now.

Amalia Gladhart, Eugene

Russia of the West?  

Understand this: The impeachment trial is how senators reaffirm critical boundaries of presidential behavior set in the Constitution. Facts: Sedition and insurrection are impeachable behaviors. Trump engaged in both.

Former President Trump over months before and on Jan. 6 broke his constitutional oath. His words and deeds prove him guilty. Trump urged state officials to 'find' votes during election recounts. He urged his attorney general to lie, to assert there was voter fraud and that it was being investigated. Trump called on his followers to prevent by force congressional acceptance of state-certified electors. Trump should be convicted and prohibited from running again for federal office.

Members of Congress who say their constituents believe massive election fraud occurred fail to acknowledge why. Trump and his collaborators, including some of those same congressional members, have asserted for months that only fraud would prevent his re-election. Georgia had three recounts of paper ballots, one of which was by hand. Results were consistent. How many recounts are enough?

Shall this nation remain a democracy? Or shall it be controlled by a sociopath, where loyalty to one man determines job access, national policies and personal safety? If the latter, welcome to Russia of the West.

Dorothy S. Crafts, Eugene  

To submit: rgleeters@registerguard.com, or mail to: Mailbag, 3500 Chad Drive, Suite 600, Eugene, OR 97408