



#6

Alexander, Jacquelyne

From: sbcob
Subject: FW: Item #6-May 19, 2015 BOS Agenda--GHG Thresholds

From: John Steed
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 12:31 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Re: Item #6-May 19, 2015 BOS Agenda--GHG Thresholds

Dear Supervisors--

Further to my earlier message (below), in addition to the fundamental economic argument, there is also a compelling argument based upon fairness that should inform your decision. Shouldn't the burden/cost of GHG emissions be borne by the entity proposing a project (and its customers) who will receive the benefits associated with the project rather than the general public (including children and unborn generations)? Adopting the lowest threshold possible is the fair way to make sure those profiting from a project will also bear the actual costs (including the cost of reducing/offsetting GHG emissions) of the project.

Respectfully submitted,
John H. Steed

On Tue, May 19, 2015 at 6:29 AM, John Steed wrote:
Dear Supervisors--

The science is unequivocal--we must reduce GHG emissions globally by 80% within the next 3 decades if we are to avoid catastrophic climate change. According to a recent study by MIT, the cost of removing CO2 from the atmosphere using existing technology is between \$700 and \$1,000/ton. Accordingly, every ton of CO2 that we emit into the atmosphere is equivalent to incurring a debt of at least \$700 that will have to be "paid" (in the form of dramatically reduced emissions and/or expensive removal) within the next 30 years. It is vastly more efficient from a purely economic perspective to prevent the emission of a ton of CO2 now, and you have the opportunity by setting an aggressive emissions threshold to avoid unnecessary emissions. I urge you to adopt the lowest threshold possible for GHG emissions from stationary sources as an important step in the right direction for Santa Barbara County. Failing to do so is equivalent to imposing a significant debt akin to bonded indebtedness that will burden the economy for decades to come.

Respectfully submitted,
John H. Steed