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## THIS IS YOUR HERITAGE!

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John Murdock [below](#) urges Republicans to accept that human action is changing the climate to potentially catastrophic effect. One Republican already has: Representative Bob Inglis, from South Carolina's fourth congressional district.

Inglis is the author of a bill titled the "Raise Wages, Cut Carbon Act of 2009." The bill would institute a tax on fossil fuels of \$15 per ton of carbon dioxide content, rising to \$100 by 2040, all amounts indexed to inflation.

Every dollar of the money raised would be used to reduce Social Security taxes for workers and to raise Social Security payouts to retirees.

Inglis is a strong socially conservative Republican from a district that is home both to Bob Jones University and BMW's American manufacturing plant. A graduate of Duke and the University of Virginia Law School, he served in the House from 1993 to 1999. He challenged Ernest Hollings for US Senate in 1998 and lost. He returned to his successful private law practice, then again ran and won in the Fourth District in 2004.

The re-elected Inglis remains one of Congress' fiercest budget hawks. But he has also emerged as an increasingly active participant in the climate change debate.

NewMajority asked him how he arrived at his view. Inglis credited his eldest child, Robert. When Inglis ran for Congress in 2004, Robert said: "Dad I'll vote for you but you need to clean up your act on the environment."

Inglis took those words to heart and joined the Science committee when he returned to the House of Representatives. He traveled to Antarctica with the committee in January 2006, saw the melting ice, and came away convinced of the need for action. Until then, he had doubted the case for climate change, based in part on his animosity to some of the people who pressed the case. "All we can see is Al Gore, we cannot get past him. At the highest level, this environmental crisis is a spiritual problem. Can we overcome the hardness of spirit that prevents us from hearing those we disagree with?"

He urges Republicans not to let ideological animus prevent them from receiving scientific fact. "He who angers you, controls you."

Inglis touts his bill as a measure that will simultaneously improve the national security of the United States, clean the air and create jobs. (It should be noted here that General Electric manufactures wind turbines at a plant in Greenville.)

And he sharply contrasts his carbon tax proposal with the administration's preferred cap-and-trade system.

"We want to avoid government picking any individual technology: wind, solar or nuclear. Just use the tax system to recognize a negative externality – and then get out of the way and see what happens. Don't do credits, don't do grants. Just send a price signal and watch the free enterprise system lead us to the solution. If people can make a profit, they will serve their customer in a beautifully efficient way.

"I believe in free enterprise solving this problem – in individuals properly incentivized and with market distortions eliminated. The market will deliver solutions that work - as opposed to an approach that dispenses money from Washington.



by  
**David Frum**  
BIO  
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“Cap and trade is just a very inefficient way of getting to the goal. And it will mean full unemployment for K Street as hordes of lobbyists descend on the Capitol to get this industry or that firm an allocation of rights to emit carbon for free. With a carbon tax, everybody pays and pays at the same rate. It's clean!”

He urges Republicans to rally around his pro-market view: “This is your heritage! This is what you believe in!” Well maybe Republicans don't quite believe in it yet. But in time – they will, they will.



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