

Bill Barron – Independent candidate for U.S. Senate

With the national debt at over \$16 trillion, and still no budget passed for the last three years, how do you propose bringing spending under control?

The surest way to reduce the federal debt is to promote a healthy economy based on clean renewable energy. This would greatly reduce the need for military funds to fight expensive wars over scarce resources; it would clean up our air, our water and our soils, reducing healthcare costs; it would promote the health of local economies by stimulating local efforts to capture the abundant wind, solar and geothermal resources that are present everywhere. A transition to clean energy would create jobs in energy innovation and implementation, small business, education and other sectors that meet real human needs and enhance our lives.

When there are fewer problems to address, - when healthy citizens contribute to a robust economy devoted to meeting human needs, when human-caused natural disasters and wars are only a memory - the need for a top-heavy federal government will be greatly diminished and we can address many of our challenges more efficiently on the local level.

How would you go about stimulating job growth in Utah and the nation?

Putting a price on carbon (see the explanation of Carbon Fee and Dividend below) would create significant demand for clean energy technologies - not only solar panels and wind turbines, but also fuel-efficient vehicles, net-zero buildings and energy efficient industrial processes. In every community, jobs related to the manufacture, sale, installation and maintenance of clean energy technology. Local economies are ideally suited to meeting local human needs, and communities would be the beneficiaries as we transition to stable local economies rather than the boom and bust cycles of fossil-fuel extraction. Wouldn't it be nice if our spending could be devoted to maintaining optimal health, prosperity and culture within a peaceful and engaged citizenry?

On matters of foreign policy, facets of the public have both supported and decried military action in other nations, particularly the Middle East. Did you support military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and do you believe Iran to be a threat to the national security of the United States?

The recent military actions in Iraq and Afghanistan (which cost thousands of lives and billions of tax dollars) could have been avoided if we did not need to secure strategic resources in those countries – that is, if we could rely on the solar, wind and geothermal resources available in every local area. If we made such a transition and shared clean energy technologies with other countries so that they too could prosper, there would be little need to compete and fight with each other over scarce resources elsewhere when everything we needed could be found nearby. I feel the best way to diminish the pressure for all nuclear development and the threat of its use (including our own), is to access already available clean energy resources to abundantly meet our authentic human needs and share that knowledge and technology with other countries.

The issue of most importance to me is the ongoing threat of natural disaster related to human-caused climate change. I believe the science is conclusive and it is up to us to stop

burning fossil fuels so that current and future generations can count on a stable climate. I realize that not everyone shares my belief, but I ask you to consider that there are lots of other good reasons to effect a transition to clean renewable energy, which I have listed in my response to the first question.

To address this challenge, I specifically propose to place a steadily increasing fee on carbon emissions at the source (mine, wellhead or port of entry) with 100% of the revenues returned to households as a dividend. Approximately two-thirds of all households would come out ahead. Those who use more carbon would have incentive to cut their burning of carbon-based fuels, but the amount they would pay in increased prices (fees passed on to end-use consumers) would be partially offset by their dividend. Carbon Fee and Dividend is a direct and transparent way to stimulate a transition to clean, renewable energy.

Carbon Fee and Dividend would:

- accelerate our transition away from fossil fuels
- improve our air and water quality
- reduce health care costs
- provide incentive for our economy to grow toward innovation, ingenuity, and efficiency
- diminish the need to fight wars over scarce resources
- all without increasing the size of government.

Every community deserves clean air, clean water, a stable climate, optimal health, economic opportunity and freedom from the threat of war. I support the Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal as a means to bring about this kind of society and this kind of world.

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