

# COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM AND U. S. ENERGY POLICY

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# **COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM AND U. S. ENERGY POLICY**

**Hidden Costs of Energy**

**The Role of Government Policy**

**Climate Policy**

**Current Energy Policy**

# **HIDDEN COSTS OF ENERGY**

***NRC's Hidden Costs of Energy***

***EPA's Second Retrospective Study***

**Muller-Mendelsohn-Nordhaus  
*Environmental Accounts***

# **THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT POLICY**

**Depletion Costs**

**New Technologies**

**Tax Incentives for Energy Production**

# **MARKET FAILURES AND ENERGY UTILIZATION**

**Energy-Related Tax Expenditures**

**Cost-Effective Energy Taxes**

**Muller-Mendelsohn and the Six  
Criterion Pollutants**

**Costs of Climate Change**

# **ALTERNATIVES TO ENERGY TAXES**

**Waxman-Markey  
Cap-and-Trade System**

**Energy Standards**

**Tax Expenditures for  
Energy Conservation**

# ENERGY PRODUCTION TAX CREDITS

Table 1.—Comparison of Selected Energy Production Tax Credits

	(Column 1) Statutory credit amount	(Column 2) Credit amount in dollars per MMBtu of heat energy	(Column 3) Credit amount in dollars per MMBtu of heat energy of displaced fossil fuel feedstock**
Wind power	2.2 cents per kilowatt-hour	\$6.45	\$2.25
Geothermal power	2.2 cents per kilowatt-hour	\$6.45	\$2.25
Open-loop biomass	1.1 cents per kilowatt-hour	\$3.22	\$1.13
Advanced nuclear power	1.8 cents per kilowatt-hour	\$5.28	\$1.85
Ethanol*	45 cents per gallon	\$5.92	\$5.92
Biodiesel*	\$1 per gallon	\$8.45	\$8.45

# **THE CASE FOR COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM**

**The Fiscal Cliff**

**Bowles-Simpson**

**Efficient Taxation of Income**

**The Role of Energy Taxes**



# THE ROLE OF ENERGY TAXES

## Damages (tax rates) as a percent of consumer prices

	Non-climate			Climate			Combined		
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Coal	16.20%	181.68%	464.60%	12.92%	41.79%	89.22%	29.12%	223.47%	553.82%
Petroleum	0.99%	8.51%	11.25%	0.93%	3.01%	6.42%	1.92%	11.51%	17.68%
Natural Gas	0.03%	0.79%	0.82%	2.24%	7.26%	15.50%	2.27%	8.05%	16.32%

## Tax revenues in billions of \$(2011)

	Non-climate			Climate			Combined		
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Coal	\$7.88	\$88.40	\$226.06	\$6.29	\$20.33	\$43.41	\$14.17	\$108.73	\$269.47
Petroleum	\$8.40	\$72.51	\$95.94	\$7.93	\$25.64	\$54.75	\$16.33	\$98.15	\$150.68
Natural Gas	\$0.04	\$1.22	\$1.26	\$3.46	\$11.19	\$23.88	\$3.50	\$12.40	\$25.14
Total	\$16.32	\$162.12	\$323.25	\$17.67	\$57.16	\$122.03	\$33.99	\$219.28	\$445.29

## Tax revenues as a percent of GDP

	Non-climate			Climate			Combined		
	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Coal	0.052%	0.586%	1.498%	0.042%	0.135%	0.288%	0.094%	0.720%	1.785%
Petroleum	0.056%	0.480%	0.636%	0.053%	0.170%	0.363%	0.108%	0.650%	0.998%
Natural Gas	0.000%	0.008%	0.008%	0.023%	0.074%	0.158%	0.023%	0.082%	0.167%
Total	0.108%	1.074%	2.142%	0.117%	0.379%	0.808%	0.225%	1.453%	2.950%

# **COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM AND U. S. ENERGY POLICY: SUMMARY**

**Energy Taxes and the Fiscal Cliff**

**Current Tax Expenditures for Energy**

**The Case for Comprehensive Tax  
Reform**

**Lifting the Burden**

