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Dingell: Cap and trade a 'great big' tax

By: Glenn Thrush

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Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), ousted by Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) in a race for the Energy and Commerce Committee chairmanship earlier this year, has called Waxman's cap-and-trade system "a great big" tax.

Dingell, who backs a carbon tax, didn't express opposition to the cap-and-trade proposal but says he wants to avoid missteps made in countries that implemented the system.

"Every economist says that a carbon tax is a better, more efficient, fairer way of doing it. ... The Europeans have had two, maybe three fine failures in their application of cap and trade. How do we avoid the mistakes that they have made? ... Nobody in this country realizes that cap and trade is a tax, and it's a great big one. ... I want to get a bill that works — how do we choose the best way?"

Matt Lloyd, spokesman for House Republican Conference Chairman Mike Pence, said: "Dingell agrees with what Republicans have been saying all along: The Democrat cap-and-trade bill is a national energy tax on working families."

Correction: An earlier version of the story said that Dingell supports a carbon tax instead of cap-and-trade proposals; in fact, Dingell did not express opposition to cap-and-trade proposals.

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