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I have recently attended two Climate Change Workshops in the Manawatu, the first hosted by DairyNZ at the Hokowhitu Golf course and the second hosted by the ACRE Group held at Massey University. Both workshops gave me an excellent insight about the gasses that are causing global warming but I came away with far more questions than answers.

I have an issue that under the Paris accord it was accepted that not every country will do the same. No wonder the President of the United States of America is having issues with this agreement! The NZ agricultural sector demands a level playing field, as a small economy we feel let down, this agreement is flawed and this is not good enough coming from the so called world leading climate change experts. Why is NZ so obsessed in becoming leaders in the drive to lead the reduction in agricultural emissions when the total NZ emissions make up 0.2% of global emissions; I don't accept the fact that we are to be leaders in agricultural climate change, now is the time for the ideological driven bureaucrats to re think NZs stance. I would question who will be responsible for setting the NZ emission standards, this seems to me a classic example of the non productive sector telling the productive sector what to do. It is imperative that as a country we preserve the environment but we must also accommodate rather than deny the economic realities. We are a small trading country at the bottom of the world and strong idealistic rhetoric on this stance will do nothing other than continue to undermine the agricultural sector.

I feel the ETS is solely a money trading scheme dreamed up by capilists under the guise of an environmental good exercise. It's had a shaky beginning, I always regarded it as a bit of a rort, I hope it has been cleared up from when we could buy an AK47 machine gun, a bride or carbon credits from Russia! Over the last few years there has been a major environmental effort to clean up our waterways with the planting of nutrient interceptor beds and riparian strips with native species. I have contacted MPI three times to measure my plantings to become part of the ETS scheme but at this stage I have not received any reply. Land owners are not being recognised for these combined water way, bio diversity projects, these projects must be recognised for their contribution in the effort to reduce global warming. The recent debacle with logging waste clogging up rivers after storms is nothing new, over the last 150 years NZ has made major environmental mistakes, maybe it's time to show leadership bring in a green credit format for the ETS. NZ farmers are an innovative group of people, there are large areas of waste land in NZ even on highly productive land that can be planted with natives and I am convinced that with strong leadership and long term wisdom we can lead the world, but we do require that level playing field.

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