

Business must lobby for climate change rules

I love reading articles by experienced business executives explaining why they're concerned about climate change risks and trying to protect business infrastructure, income and jobs from extreme weather. Many businesses are greening internal operations, but that isn't enough. Businesses must lobby Congress for sound climate policy. As Jim Owens, a former CEO of Caterpillar, wrote in a Thursday Sun-Times op-ed: "Sound public policies at every level of government are also necessary to ensure that the conditions are right for American business."

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-Rhode Island, has given 137 climate change speeches in the Senate. Several speeches dealt with climate change impacts on specific industries or regions, and he has repeatedly asked businesses to lobby Congress about climate change. On March 18, 2015, he said, "Corporations that are sensible and responsible on climate change can make a big difference by taking it up one more step, and putting their politics where their policies are." This week, Whitehouse wrote in Forbes that American businesses lobby for their industry issues, but fail to raise the issue of climate change. Consequently, only fossil-fuel companies lobby — against climate policy.

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