

Citizens can make a difference

Your editorial “What’s wrong with Congress - and with us” bemoans Congress’ disregard for minority opinions, and lack of “civility, compromise and problem-solving.” You argue these attitudes spread from national politics throughout our society, and into family settings. Respect for citizenship and democracy is threatened. Yet important data was omitted. I recently attended my first government hearing ever - the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy’s Oct. 26 hearing. Held in a statehouse chamber, every seat was filled. Crowds stood along the walls. The chairman asked attendees to hear testimony without applauding or interrupting. We complied.

The public’s respectful presence at hearings tells representatives, senators and Governor Baker that citizens want serious climate action. Trump’s EPA and Paris accord attitudes drove me to the hearing.

Engaged citizens have also fostered a Congressional House Climate Solutions Caucus. The CSC now has 31 Republican members and 31 Democratic members. Last summer, CSC members helped defeat an anti-climate amendment. Next year, they’ll introduce legislation.

Nationwide, climate advocates regularly visit their representatives and senators. Politicians are encouraged by activist voters to support climate legislation. One group (Environmental Voter Project) studies how to identify and motivate citizens who consider climate a priority - whether Republicans, Independents or Democrats-- to vote regularly. In particular, non-partisan Citizens’ Climate Lobby has grown in ten years to 456 chapters and covers every congressional district. CCL’s 90,000 supporters care about market solutions, intergenerational justice, labor concerns, agriculture, grid/energy innovations, outreach to conservatives-libertarians, and more.

Please join us.

Judy Weiss

Brookline [Link](#)