

Citizens complicit in GOP climate change denial

Judy Weiss, Letter to the editor Sept. 18, 2017

Jerry Harkness' "[Ignorance, Green motivate Climate Deniers](#)" presents a simplified view of climate change politics: all Democrats are good and all Republicans are bad.

Perhaps Harkness might refine his thinking by considering [Arnold Schwarzeneger](#), who cared about climate change before most Democrats heard of it. Maybe Arnold is so rich he could ignore lobbyists?

There also are Republicans [George Shultz](#), [James Baker](#) and [Bob Inglis](#). They're teaching America about the need for carbon fees. But none of them hold elected positions (anymore)! How does Harkness explain Sen. [Susan Collins](#), R-Maine, sponsoring "cap and dividend" legislation in 2010? She was just re-elected. Hmmm? Or [George Pataki](#), Republican governor, who led New England states to establish our cap and trade system?

Yes, the GOP currently has a sad climate change record because fossil fuel interests threaten to "primary" any Republican officeholder who dares to murmur climate change.

But the public helped. We were apathetic or anemic about climate action. We didn't make climate our number one.

When Americans call and visit Republican offices to complain about climate change, what (do) Republicans do? Twenty-eight House Republicans joined the bipartisan [Climate Solutions Caucus](#) (with 28 Democrats). They voted with Democrats to prevent an anti-climate amendment in July.

So far, not one Louisiana congressman joined the caucus. Not even Rep. Cedric Richmond, Louisiana's sole congressional Democrat. How does Harkness explain all the data?

Readers should make a bunch of noise — get Reps. [Mike Johnson](#) and Cedric Richmond to join the [Climate Solutions Caucus](#) together.

[Judy Weiss](#)

Brookline, Massachusetts

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