

Climate change impacts food security

Thank you for [Chris Werle's \(Dec. 3\) op-ed](#) on hardships that climate change poses to farmers, agricultural workers and our food security (defined as access to adequate supplies of nutritious food). I was sorry to read about your disappointing peach crop this year due to a mild winter.

Inside Climate News reported recently that Texas peach farmers used to be able to count on a "reliable chill season" to guarantee big peach crops. Now many Texas peach farmers are suffering as milder fall and winter temperatures led to 60 percent reduction in peach production last year and 90 percent reduction this year.

I'm seeing changes in Boston too. I was warned that cherry trees are too delicate to grow in containers on a roof in Boston. But I got an enormous crop this year from two miniature trees, after recent mild Boston winters. I've also recently added fig trees to my rooftop "orchard." Maybe eventually bananas too?

We've been warned that, as global warming progresses, we'll also lose our "fruit from the seas." Lobster farmers in Boston have seen their catch drop by 60 percent from 20 years ago. Connecticut's annual lobster catch used to be about 4 million pounds, but it's now under 200,000 (down 95 percent). New York's lobster haul dropped from more than 9 million pounds (1999), to about 220,000 pounds (down 98 percent). This will present a double whammy to our food security: Agricultural food production will struggle to produce plentiful, nutritious grains, fruits, vegetables and beans, while valuable seafood proteins disappear from our fisheries.

Please urge Rep. Steven Palazzo to join the House Climate Solutions Caucus — a group of 31 Republicans and 31 Democrats studying sensible climate policies. It's not just about agricultural workers and industries; it's about our food security.

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