

Climate legislation desperately needed

My husband and I were riding the train from Boston to San Francisco. As we approached Pennsylvania, I read your paper to see what's new in Erie. I was delighted to find Michael Gerson's column "Be leery of those claiming to be Reagan heirs" (Erie Times-News, Nov. 6).

Gerson thoughtfully considered how some Republicans today try to cast themselves as heirs to President Ronald Reagan by rewriting history. They recharacterize Reagan in their own image, thus artificially synchronizing him with their own ideology.

Although Gerson offered several examples, he omitted the most important. Reagan called himself an environmentalist. He supported a cap and trade plan to limit CFC emissions (chlorofluorocarbons) that were destroying the ozone. He helped prevent millions of cases of skin cancer.

Did he do it because he'd had skin cancer so out of personal experience he chose government regulation to prevent the heartache of cancer? Did he love nature and have so many fond memories of riding horses and chopping wood that he acted out of love? Or did the science of ozone holes frighten him?

Today's congressional Republicans must act on climate change. Time is running out. They must choose to act out of empathy for those who are suffering its early effects, or based on love for nature born from childhood memories, or out of fear that the surreal pictures scientists are painting will become very real, very soon.

It doesn't matter: empathy, love or fear. It's time for Congress to pass climate legislation.

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<http://www.goerie.com/article/20141113/OPINION02/311139945/republicans-drub-lowly-democrats-letters-to-the-editor>