

# Climate legislation now

Michael Brune and Jim Frick wrote [a great article April 21](#) on the need for the people's voices to be heard in elections instead of the raucous sound of expensive campaign ads paid for by tycoons who want to maintain the status quo. Absolutely fantastic, except for one thing. If Americans who say they are concerned about climate change had been calling or writing their senators and representatives every day letting them know they want climate legislation, legislation would already have been passed. It is not enough for us to vote on Election Day and then set aside our civic responsibilities. We must make our voices heard as regularly as tycoons write checks to lobbyists.

I urge Mainers to call Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King and their U.S. representatives and ask them to sponsor national legislation to charge fossil fuel producers a fee for the emissions their products cause. The legislation should also rebate the fees collected to the public so we all can have extra income to pay for rising energy prices.

Brune and Frick claim that the Koch brothers have subverted our democracy. That is only partially true. We have sat quietly and let them and their money derail climate legislation.

It's time to tell Collins, King and everyone else, "We're as mad as hell and we aren't going to take this any more!" Let's get climate legislation passed now.

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