

Thursday, May 28, 2015

Fossil fuel industry is impeding progress

Editor:

Thank you for writing about furniture builder turned climate advocate Jim Probst. I loved reading his story, and I appreciated his comment regarding people who don't want to believe climate change: the fact is, climate change or not, ". . . things change. Until 1859, the primary source of lighting in this country was whale oil. Whoever was in that business, they aren't in it anymore."

Indeed, businesses come and go — typewriters, ice delivery, whale-bone corsets, record players, rotary dial land-line telephones, telegrams. The list goes on.

The difference between those businesses and fossil fuel businesses, is that fossil fuel industrialists have much more realized wealth, and much more potential wealth in the form of known reserves. Consequently, they've been willing and able to delay our transition away from fossil fuels by decades, and they'll keep delaying it as long as they can.

But things will change. It'll be very sad if the American public allows coal, oil and gas to continue delaying the inevitable change to emissions-free energy, and risk pushing us past a climate tipping point. I urge readers to contact Citizens' Climate Lobby for more information about the best legislation Congress could enact to cut emissions, slow climate change, ensure global cooperation while protecting our economy.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. It's now the season for clean energy, and a carbon emissions fee with rebates to the public.

Rabbi Judy Weiss

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