

## Harvey sent message on global warming

*The Lowell Sun*

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Thank you for publishing Kathleen Parker's opinion column on Hurricane Harvey. Her conclusion makes an important point: "Storms of the Harvey variety will become not one-in-1,000-year events but one-in-100. And then, well, who knows beyond worse-is-coming? The least we can do is exercise our free will -- and our reasoning powers -- to mitigate the effects of human activities on global warming to the extent possible."

To paraphrase Hawkeye Pierce of the "MASH" television show:

"Never let it be said that we didn't do the least we could do!"

So let's exercise our free will and reasoning powers: Washington can stubbornly deny human-caused global warming, but we're free to cut our emissions, limit our impact on warming, and protect ourselves as best as possible. As a state, we've yet to plan how to reduce transportation and heating emissions. We need to prioritize shifting these sectors to clean energy.

And the more we free ourselves from fossil fuel dependency, the more we'll also insulate ourselves from oil and gas price fluctuations when Gulf Coast refineries are hit by heavy storms and disruptive flooding.

What we're learning about the risks of global warming will become completely obvious to our grandchildren's generation. One day you may be asked by a grandchild, niece or nephew: What did you do when global warming became obvious? Please call Governor Baker, your state representative, and state senator. You won't want to have to admit, in all honesty, that you did the least you could do.

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