

Letter: Make climate change a key election issue

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Thank you for publishing Steve Sack's political cartoon portraying a climate change denier as so dense his weight more than offsets in the balance that of virtually every scientist in the world. It beautifully pictures how climate change deniers get tripped up by their misconceptions of the weightiness of their arguments, the forcefulness of the evidence on which they focus, and the persuasiveness of their own authority that they dare offer a scientific opinion. All the while, they miss the big picture.

The Washington Post editorial (May 12) weighed in by asserting, regarding Sen. Marco Rubio, that denying anthropogenic climate change makes him unfit to be president of the United States. Their editorial is spot on regarding anyone who runs for president in 2016. In fact, one can imagine 2016 presidential or vice-presidential debates in which Republican candidates are exposed as unfit to be President simply because they never spoke about climate change's gravity, and never sponsored or supported serious climate change legislation.

By the way, the Shaheen-Portman energy efficiency bill died in the Senate. This bill was not a weighty response to climate change because it failed to charge for carbon emissions. Newspaper editorials should make it clear to congressional Republicans that supporting Shaheen-Portman does not count as supporting climate change legislation. If Republican Senator Kelly Ayotte, our neighbor in New Hampshire, wants to consider running as a vice presidential candidate (as some rumors suggest), she would serve her party well by educating the public now about the reasons Congress should enact a carbon tax and fully rebate it to the public.

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