

Our every action matters

[Rutland Herald](#) | February 08, 2017

Thank you for Bill McKibben's article on why we must fight for climate change action despite the feeling that it might be too late. Usually, I think about my grandkids and how one day they'll ask me what I did when I first learned about climate change, the role of fossil fuels, feedback loops, tipping points and the growing urgency. I understand that the climate will destabilize further before it stabilizes, and I'll have to answer to my grandkids. Feelings of responsibility, guilt and atoning for previous ignorance motivate me.

When things feel more desperate, I think about those Jews in Hitler's concentration camps who every morning said a traditional Jewish morning prayer praising God for making us free. When asked how they could say such a prayer while imprisoned in a concentration camp that they weren't free to leave, they answered — that although imprisoned, worked with cruelty and barely fed or clothed, they still had freedom to choose how to respond to each other. They could act honorably and treat fellow prisoners with compassion. Daily climate action fosters self-respect and honorably expresses unity with other people in worse straits.

Every decision we make in our modern society has an impact, for better or worse, on the climate. We pretend we're free to act any which way we want, or that our individual choices are completely insignificant, but we deceive ourselves — we're dependent on, and united with, our environment and each other.

Freedom requires self-restraint. Therefore, support climate groups, curtail your flying, work for carbon pricing, divest and buy used or hybrid/electric vehicles.

Resist climate change deniers both locally and in the White House.

Rabbi JUDY WEISS
Brookline, Mass.

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