

Pataki's heroic contribution

State Sens. Nancy Stiles and John Reagan wrote a disappointing article [describing why George Pataki would be a good presidential candidate](#) (Monitor Forum, Oct. 14). It was disappointing because they didn't mention Pataki's most far-reaching, insightful, profoundly valuable service to New York State and to America: As governor, he initiated and nurtured long-term discussions with other states that led to the development of our regional greenhouse gas emissions control program, known as RGGI. It's a market-based cap and trade approach to cutting the carbon emissions that intensify climate change.

Pataki never walked away from the need for climate change policy nor from RGGI. Pataki presents an outstanding contrast to Mitt Romney, who first supported RGGI before he pulled Massachusetts out of RGGI, later denied climate change and humiliated himself by joking about rising seas.

New England Republicans should take pride in Pataki's consistency, and should loudly reject Romney's climate wavering and joking. They should emphasize Pataki's fine, heroic contribution to American climate policy. It's a wedge issue to differentiate him from other Republican candidates and free the GOP from less honest, less honorable candidates.

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