

Political climate

How can we understand environmentalists objecting to Jay Faison's \$500,000 donation to Sen. Kelly Ayotte's campaign because, supposedly, it'll politicize climate change (Sunday Monitor front page, July 12)? I've volunteered with Citizens' Climate Lobby since 2011, helping to build the political will for bipartisan climate legislation. I primarily respond to articles by political operatives pretending to be environmentalists, economists, scientists or think-tank scholars. These operatives work for a fossil fuel-financed network, State Policy Network; they aim to lie about climate and prevent action.

Climate change is politicized: Faison's contributions might restore honesty and accountability. In June, CCL volunteers met, for the first time ever, directly with Sen. Ayotte, not just with her staff. We discussed ways climate change harms New Hampshire's economy – for example, ticks causing moose deaths and hurting tourism. CCL worries about Lyme Disease, an EPA "climate change indicator," which is growing faster in New Hampshire than in any other state. Readers who want to depoliticize climate change and encourage centrist congressional climate legislation should contact CCL.

Last year, under 5 percent of our members identified as conservatives. Now that number is 10 percent. CCL has chapters in both New Hampshire congressional districts, and we're holding a conference, featuring Dr. James Hansen, in New Hampshire, November 14-15. To me, environmentalists' anger over Faison's donation to a Republican candidate indicates unhealthy, distrustful, unhelpful thinking.

As the pope's encyclical taught (paragraph 119): "We cannot . . . heal our relationship with nature and the environment without healing all fundamental human relationships."

Rabbi JUDY WEISS
Brookline, Mass.

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