

Weiss: Raise your voice on climate change

Posted May. 18, 2014 @ 12:39 am

Thank you for Danielle Ameden's coverage of the Framingham Town Meeting's discussion of whether or not to divest town funds from fossil fuel investments. Yes, it is important to raise our voices about the trouble climate presents. Yes, local divestment will be ineffective. Yes, it is just one small step. Yes, there are other more important things people can do about climate change.

However, the true value in the divestment campaign is it finally has the American public wrestling with what to do about climate change instead of ignoring it. Yet a better way to raise our voices, and be effective with small steps is to join a local chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby. CCL is a volunteer organization that lobbies Congress for effective, efficient, equitable market-based climate legislation. We have several chapters in the Greater Boston area, and more than a dozen Massachusetts members will be attending CCL's annual conference in Washington, June 22-24.

On Tuesday June 24, Massachusetts members will meet with Senators Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, and also with all US Representatives from Massachusetts. We will urge them to find cosponsors for bipartisan legislation.

To support our lobbying efforts, readers should please take one small step on June 24. That morning, they should please call Senators Warren and Markey and urge them to support CCL's legislative proposals by reaching out to New Hampshire Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Kelly Ayotte, and Maine Senators Susan Collins and Angus King. Our states are in this together, and all six senators are concerned about climate change. Our senators should sponsor bipartisan legislation together, similar to the market-based carbon pricing and rebate legislation Susan Collins proposed in 2010.

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