

Republicans Need An Issue

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Kudos to former Gov. Lowell Weicker for his call to the Republican Party to return from irrelevancy [May 16, op-ed, "Republicans Torpedoed Themselves"]. However, he doesn't offer Republicans a guiding mission. Simply saying "let it all hang out" will not provide a sufficiently hopeful rallying call for those "hibernating" to return, nor will it inspire those who have lost their direction over the years to return to a more productive path.

It would be much more effective if Weicker would identify an issue that the GOP has led on in the past and could lead on again. Climate change is the obvious choice. High-profile Republicans have become a national laughingstock over their climate change ignorance. And yet the country is grateful to Republican presidents for founding the EPA, signing clean air and water acts, using cap and trade laws to protect the ozone, and to curb acid rain.

Why doesn't Weicker issue a call to Republicans, independents and hibernators to help rebirth the party for the sake of slowing climate change? They can support market-based carbon tax and rebate legislative proposals like the one promoted by former South Carolina Rep. Bob Inglis, another Republican pushed out of office by Republican Party extremists.

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http://articles.courant.com/2014-05-20/news/hcrs-20251--20140516_1_judy-weiss-climate-lobby-weicker