

LETTER

Thank you for Eric Blaisdell's article on the Montpelier climate change conference. Unfortunately, Blaisdell ended his article with a quote emphasizing depression, powerlessness and despair in the face of climate change.

However, attending conferences, joining activism groups to work on local climate change projects and going to protest marches to stop the Keystone pipeline will relieve despair and feelings of powerlessness. There is strength and comfort in community.

Similarly, people can fight climate change if they support a bill written by Senator Bernie Sanders. His Climate Protection Act of 2013 would charge the people and corporations mining and drilling coal, oil and gas a tax based on how much each fuel harms the environment. The tax would effectively charge for the pollution emitted when the fuel is used (instead of letting people and industry pollute for free).

In addition, Senator Sanders' bill requires that 60% of the revenue from this carbon tax be distributed to every U.S. resident to help us pay for the costs of switching to cleaner sources of energy. If the bill is enacted, the tax will encourage everyone to use less coal, oil and gas, emissions will decline, the rate of climate change will slow, and we'll all get a share of the tax as "green dividends."

To support Sanders' bill, please send emails to Representative Welch and Senator Leahy telling them you want the Climate Protection Act of 2013 to be passed in 2013. The bill must be passed this year for the sake of the climate, for the sake of future generations and for our own sanity.

Rabbi Judy Weiss

Member of Citizens Climate Lobby, a national organization of volunteers lobbying for legislation to stabilize the climate

<http://www.sanders.senate.gov/newsroom/news/?id=4ADCBE4D-8C99-4054-BACA-2B972CE9E2C4>