

Sanders is a leader on climate

Thank Rick Holmes for his beautiful column (Sept. 13) about Bernie Sanders being all about the consistent, well-informed, honest message rather than the hair, the spit shine, the clothes and the eternal, infernal spin. As you itemized, Bernie has been reliably right on every major issue because he follows his strong moral compass. His major opponent has been predictably wrong due to reliance on pollsters' numbers instead of sound judgment.

Yet, when you summarized the major issues, you omitted Bernie's consistently correct position on climate change. For years, Bernie raised serious Keystone XL pipeline concerns in Congress, in media press releases, and in writing to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. He properly objected to her acceptance of a contractor, who had financial ties to the Keystone XL builder, as the preparer of an environmental study of the pipeline's impact. And Bernie wisely speaks about the need for a market-based carbon fee to cut emissions - his active support of a market-based solution suggests he could be an effective deal maker with conservative Republicans who know that a carbon fee is the best pro-market, low-cost, effective, equitable, easy to implement climate change policy.

If Senator Lindsey Graham would like to leap frog to the top of the GOP presidential candidate polls, he could co-sponsor this year with his long-term colleague Senator Sanders, a gradually rising, revenue-neutral carbon fee, with dividends back to the public. It's climatically essential, and represents sound economics and compelling social justice.

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