

LETTER

Set aside pet issues to save the planet

'Judy Weiss, Brookline, Mass.'

For the Monitor
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The Sunday Monitor's Aug. 19 editorial, 'Save the forests to cool the climate' describes a frightening picture of what climate change is doing to New England forests. Trees and plants displaced. Birds, fish and iconic sugar maples gone.

But your conclusion - It is time to put 'conserve' back in 'conservative' - was absurd! Not possible as long as the oil and gas industry is funding so many conservative politicians.

No. It is time for voters to look beyond labels of liberal and conservative. This year voters must send to Washington officials untainted by pressure from fossil-fuel lobbies, who will enact legislation that puts a price on carbon fuels in order to motivate polluters financially to switch to cleaner methods of operating.

If we do not slow climate change in the near future, it will not matter if we prevent abortions, create jobs, fix our health-care system, deal with immigrants or fix Social Security.

In order to be protect life as we know it on Earth, we must all set aside our pet issues, conservative or liberal, and vote for the good of our planet.

Please do not vote for anyone who will not support a fee payable by those who drill or mine for fossil fuels.

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(The writer is a member of the Boston chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby.)

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/news/4299445-95/climate-conservative-aside-issues>