

Silver Lining in Perry's Climate Change Attack

Kudos to Rev. Mitch Hescox for his excellent article pondering why Rep. Scott Perry would have proposed, yet again, to prevent the Defense Department from studying climate change impacts in order to properly plan national security strategies. Hescox was quite generous and sympathetic as he tried to imagine why Perry would raise this misguided amendment again.

Perry's constituents may have to ask themselves if he is truly ready, willing and able to serve them. But, from my perspective, I see a silver lining to Perry's proposal of his ridiculous amendment that serves only to hamstring our military. The silver lining: Perry's amendment pushed 46 House Republicans to set aside partisan politics and vote with the Democrats. For many of these 46, they don't usually self-identify as concerned about rising seas, or worried about climate change, or supporters of pro-climate change policy. Supporting military climate policy is a first, natural step for them. Next they may think about joining the Climate Solutions Caucus, or they may become more supportive of the EPA. Or they may expand Department of Energy funding for work on renewables, efficiencies, batteries, grid upgrades, and advanced vehicles.

Casting one vote that prioritizes our national good over their party's dictates will lead to another similar vote, and another, until America gets the long-term, stable national climate policy that most American voters want.

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