

## **T&G flood risk assessment and the hazards of climate change**

I was glad to read “Worcester devastation in 1955 pales in comparison to Harvey” (9/5) to see how you assess Worcester’s risks of flooding from severe rainstorms. It’s important to assess risks carefully from hazards that are intensified by climate change, and offer readers hope. But the hope should be real, based on more than just risks of extreme rainstorms because many types of climate risks can affect local residents.

Last year’s severe drought (probably made worse by climate change) hurt crops and dried up wells. Extreme heat waves can harm the health of elderly people and outdoor workers. Warmer temperatures brought us ticks and Lyme disease, and will bring us Zika.

Moreover, we all have friends or family living in coastal areas. We don’t just think about ourselves, we worry about climate risks to loved ones wherever they live or will live one day. My brother in Montana can’t do outdoor activities because of intense smoke from forest fires. Who knows where our grandkids will live?

Furthermore, disastrous storms in Houston jeopardize our energy supplies. As long as we’re dependent on Gulf Coast oil (they process two-thirds of America’s oil), we’re at risk for disruptions, if they’re not safe.

Readers should be given hope that we have ways to free ourselves from dependency on oil, and can limit our impact on warming. Please ask Governor Baker, your state representative and state senator to make it easier for you to drive, heat your home and cook without cooking the planet.

Judy Weiss, Brookline [LINK](#)