

Letter: We must work together to reverse climate change

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Sobering! That's my comment after attending the People's Climate March in New York City. The enormity of why we were there was inescapable, at least to those attending. This march may have been motivated by a wish to impress upon the officials meeting at the United Nations this week that we are no longer willing to let them finesse their way out of taking action to protect us from the most enormous threat the world has ever known. The desperate need for each of us to seize the power that we still have came through loud and clear. Every day that we do not claim our rights as citizens of a democracy, we become less powerful. Each one of us who can hear and see has the power to begin reversing climate change, but only if we use it.

The United States, self-proclaimed leader of the world, has the responsibility to lead. We can criticize our elected officials for not doing something, not committing us to meaningful action like promoting a carbon tax or getting off of fossil fuels, but that is really passing the buck. They will act only when we demand serious, difficult decisions. Unless we wake up and look at the painful reality that we are in, they also will continue to avoid the painful decisions that must be made.

Science does not lie; the facts are in, we have no time to waste. The power that we have allowed to slip away can be taken back. The 310,000 people marching in New York and many more from all over the world took a dramatic step toward exercising that power.

The next time you are tempted to criticize our representatives in our democracy, keep in mind that their actions are the results of our abdication of power, like it or not. We cannot be successful unless we remember that we all got in this mess together, and together is the only way we will get out.

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