



SSAFE Advocacy Presentation

Letter to the Editor Workshop

By Ted Wolner, Kendal at Oberlin

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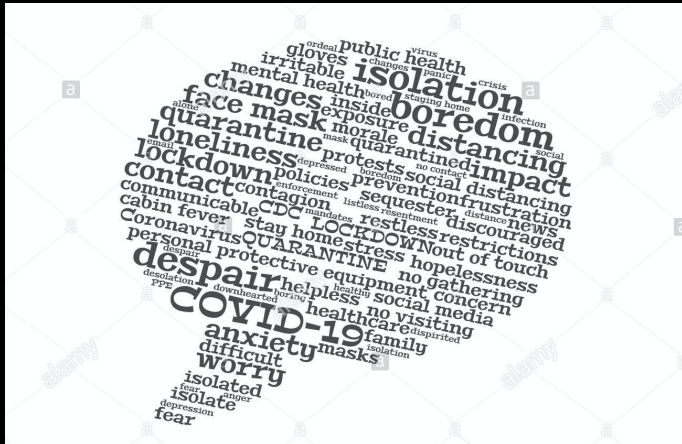
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Climate Change

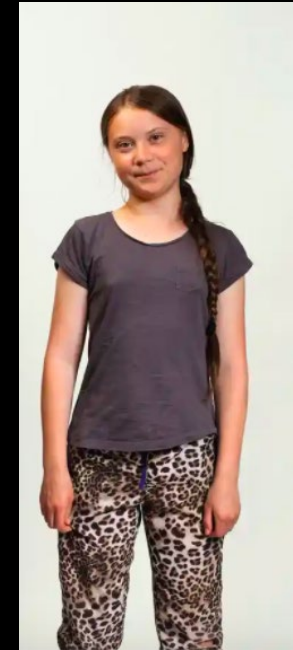
Popa Matumula (Tanzania)

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Hope in an Increasingly Hopeless World

- **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez:** Hope is something that you create, with your actions....once one person has hope, it can be contagious. Other people start acting in a way that has more hope.
- **Greta Thunberg:** Yeah. I know so many people who feel hopeless, and they ask me, “What should I do?” And I say: “Act. Do something.” Because that is the best medicine against sadness and depression. I remember the first day I was school-striking outside the Swedish parliament, I felt so alone, because everyone went straight past, no one even looked at me. But at the same time I was hopeful.



State & federal legislators track LTEs.

The more LTEs published on an issue, the more attention legislators pay to it.



LTE Guidelines

General considerations

- LTEs are often the most read parts of newspapers.
- LTEs help shape public opinion.
- Many LTEs are necessary to do this (LTE teams of 4 or 5 people; 1 writes each week).
- Repetition can create conventional wisdom in your area, like advertising.
- Local and regional newspapers are best, not the NYT or WashPo.
- Refer to something recent and relevant to your community/region.
- A few basic facts, limited but telling evidence, are key.
- Hotlink expertise that applies to you and/or your region (e.g, IPCC report, NCA).
- Politeness can impress readers (bank ex. above: it's not the fault of bank employees).
- Politeness is “mildly subversive” (BM); it stands out against widespread nastiness.

More LTE Guidelines

1. Short reference to the story or a specific part of it.
2. Praise the article or newspaper, or critique it politely.
3. State how it relates to your take on climate change.
4. Keep to 1 bite-size argument, 1 major pt. (150-350 words).
5. Identify a solution/action (put a price on carbon, bank \$).
6. Specify *how* to get action (e.g., write Senator Blowhard).
7. Close creatively (metaphor, word play, LTE starting point).
8. Always be respectful.
9. Check the newspaper's submissions requirements for author information, word limit, email attachment or not.

Your January 16th editorial, “Why Aren’t Our Leaders More Alarmed About Climate Change?”, is a genuine public service. For those of us who are alarmed, the slow-walking and greenwashing of the crisis by fossil-fuel interests and their political backers is galling, at times a source of anguish. Especially since in November and December, U.S. Senator [Sheldon Whitehouse](#) (RI) reported that 49 of 50 Democrats in the Senate backed a price on carbon, the only stand-alone policy able to reduce emissions 50% by 2030. That’s the red-alert, [climate-science metric](#) for addressing the crisis at the required speed and scale. The stark contradiction between public opinion and Senate gridlock is yet another brutal object lesson in what it takes to secure fundamental change. In the week of his birthday, it helps to remember the decades-long struggle Martin Luther King, Jr., and countless others waged for civil rights. They had to learn over and over again, [as King put it](#), that “progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability.” No matter the challenges, climate-action campaigns by groups like Sierra Club and Citizens Climate Lobby, and by each of us as individual citizens, are ever more urgent: contact Senators Brown and Portman, and your U.S. Representative, and tell them you support carbon pricing now. We need to let our elected officials know that we are alarmed, and we want them to be, too. Ted Wolner, 74 Kendal Drive, Oberlin, OH 44074

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In the 1970s and 1980s, our economy was seriously damaged by two oil crises. The main energy disruption was caused by our many adversaries in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Around the same time, environmentalists were trying to get the world's attention to recognize the coming climate crisis.

One would think that these nearly simultaneous worldwide problems -- energy dependence and rapid climate change -- might move the citizens and leaders of resourceful countries like ours to action. We could, at the same time, both eliminate reliance on energy from unfriendly countries and prevent the serious climate consequences from which we all now suffer.

However, then as now, our so-called leaders actually took the opposite policy. We allowed the world to become even more dependent on oil and gas from OPEC and yes, from Russia. Ukraine should be a wake-up call.

We have wasted over 40 years during which we could have developed alternative, renewable and clean-energy sources. Just think where the United States and the democratic world would be both politically and environmentally if courageous action had been taken many decades ago. It's not too late, if we all push our leaders now.

Dan Bonder,

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