

Help, Help, Now

The oceans are rising, the heat is rising, the forests are burning, the tornadoes and hurricanes are blowing, the rivers are flooding, the houses are collapsing and being swept away, and the people are dying.

Even if we live in what we believe is a safe location, the deaths elsewhere and the flights of people from the disasters elsewhere harm us now.

Tragically, the majority of the U.S. Supreme Court voted to seriously weaken the regulatory agencies of the United States Government. That includes agencies that serve to reduce global warming. In addition, the majority of the Supreme Court often makes decisions consistent with policies which enhance global warming.

They lend support to candidates and office holders who dismiss attention to global warming. This is the case for the candidate for the U.S. presidency, Donald J. Trump.

Trump's policy preferences seem to shift depending on which ones his supporters seem to like. There is no coherence to the proposals and certainly no evidence supporting benefits from them. His speeches are full of blatant lies and threats to opponents.

I do not know why the Supreme Court majority is acting in these strange ways. I cannot explain it. Maybe they feel it makes them belong to a small wealthy elite that runs the country. Maybe they adhere to an extreme right-wing populist ideology. Maybe they are afraid not to act as they do.

In any case, the immediate question is, what can American citizens do to check global warming and save our lives and the lives of our children. There are an abundance of technical measures that are in use already and there are many more that can be deployed here and everywhere.

So we can learn more about what might be done. More immediately we should make it clear to all candidates for the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as President and Vice President that action must be taken to save our and our children's lives from the ravages of global warming. This means using all means possible, starting now.

Louis Kriesberg

Professor Emeritus of Sociology

Maxwell Professor Emeritus of Social Conflict Studies

Author: *Fighting Better: Constructive Conflicts in America*

Oxford University Press, 2023