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Opinion

LETTERS

Climate change must be confronted in Georgia

While it may be encouraging that Georgia's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) hosted a conference on "Climate Change" last year, it is deeply troubling that the conference program acknowledged nothing about the causes of our dangerously overheating climate.

That omission was a deliberate result of top-down, politically-driven but unspoken policy imposed on state employees that protects special interests by restricting the use of science essential to defending our citizens and natural resources.

Under such constraints, agency personnel speak about the causes of climate change at the risk of losing their jobs. Even the Coastal Advisory Council, appointed by the politically-obedient DNR Commissioner to – ostensibly – improve Georgia's coastal management program, has been reluctant to openly discuss climate-change actions needed to properly address the issue.

Until Georgia's agencies and elected officials acknowledge the human activities causing climate change - foremost the combustion of fossil-fuels - the state's implicit gag-order will continue making Georgia a propagator of delusion and denial that impedes urgently needed corrective action to limit the accumulative damage of climate-change.

Accordingly, Georgia should join responsible states that have adopted plans for reducing greenhouse gases by curbing the use of fossil-fuels and ramping up investment in clean energy. As one example of timely efforts on this pivotal issue, consider the Off Fossil Fuels [OFF] Act, now being sponsored in Congress.

For more about OFF, go to <https://www.ecowatch.com/off-act-tulsi-gabbard-2479880368.html>

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