

will be heading to the Woodbury administrative building to absentee vote. I realized I would not be around next Tuesday and so will have to do this for the first time. It would have been easy to just say: “well I’m not here, why bother,” and would have in the past, but not anymore. Here are my reasons why.

First and foremost is the fact that the political landscape has changed, and in my opinion not for the good. The politicians on both sides of the fence have become so adept at taking a large portion of all of our hard-earned money and blowing it like sailor on shore leave that to stand back and not do at least the most basic of things- to vote- and at least have the satisfaction that I made my choice is incomprehensible to me anymore. If anything I should be doing a heck of a lot more, but voting is a start. It also allows me to voice my opinions to others and state my case, because if you are one of those people who sound off or complain about anything governmental and you didn’t vote I kindly invite you to shut your cake hole. You have no basis for discussion.

The second thought is that, once again due to the current political landscape, our industry is under siege. Special interest groups are formidable, organized and have their collective hooks in every level of government.

There are a lot of them that would like nothing better than to take away a bunch of the tools we need to get our jobs done and most of them are due to bad information, ignorance or a combination of both. It is important that we in the green industry understand that, and inform ourselves where candidates stand on these issues and at least do the most basic of things to ensure people are in office with a level-headed viewpoint of our industry. The most basic thing is your vote.

I just presented a couple pretty compelling reasons to vote, and I am sure you can come up with plenty more. I’m guessing most of you do vote. For those who don’t, or know people who don’t, ask them how many men and women have died in the line of duty to allow them that right to vote. If that doesn’t motivate them then I don’t know what to say. But I request you and anybody else you know make an informed vote. Find out about the candidates from an impartial source. Take 15 minutes to find out where they stand on environmental issues. Do some due diligence on this. Your livelihood in the future, or at least the ability to do the job, might be depending on it.