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Letter: Alternative energy research needed now

With energy prices across the nation approaching record highs, it's only logical that America's energy policy would become a serious political issue. Sen. Tester's recent guest opinion in The Gazette, "Partisan politics derails energy policy solutions," made some excellent contributions to the debate surrounding the formation of a new energy policy.

Tester pointed out, America has been relying on imported oil for decades. That's bad for the economy and the national security of America. We need our lawmakers to put aside partisan politics and craft an energy policy that will keep America strong and prosperous for years to come.

Tester got it right when he suggested renewable and alternative sources of energy have a big role to play in our energy future. Clean coal, wind, geothermal and solar power all have a part to play in the future.

America has the largest coal reserves in the world. Fully utilizing these reserves would account for thousands of high paying jobs across America and would help to shield American families from fluctuating energy prices - sometimes caused by the need to purchase energy on the international market.

We need legislation that reflects this reality. Fully funding the research and development of carbon capture and sequestration technologies has to be a priority of any energy policy.

Inexpensive and reliable energy sources are needed to maintain and foster America's prosperous economy.

Tester understands the need for investment in alternative energy sources as a way of securing America's prosperity and energy independence in the future.

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