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Letter: Senate bill ignores importance of coal

As the issue of climate change has received an increasing amount of attention by the media, leaders at both state and national levels have begun to address the issues surrounding it. The U.S. Senate is currently considering climate change legislation that was introduced last year. And, recently the National Governor's Association met in Washington D.C. Among the topics of discussion were clean energy sources and the increased use of them in the future.

For an energy policy of the future to be effective, it will have to incorporate multiple sources of energy including solar, clean coal, nuclear and wind. Unfortunately, the Lieberman-Warner bill currently being considered by the United States Senate fails to recognize this. The bill places arbitrary restrictions on the emissions of coal plants and will ultimately drive energy prices skyward.

Thankfully, Gov. Schweitzer understands that maintaining America's economic prosperity and tackling climate change go hand in hand. His support for finding ways to utilize America's most abundant energy resource - coal - in a clean, environmentally friendly fashion is commendable.

When Sens. Baucus and Tester, along with their colleagues in the U.S. Senate, choose to act on the issue of climate change, they should do so with legislation that encourages American ingenuity and technological advancement as opposed to the mandates and restrictions of the Lieberman-Warner bill.

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