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Letter: Climate Change Act too costly for U.S.

Climate change is a hot topic politically right now. The U.S. Congress is debating America's Climate Security Act of 2007 - S. 2191. And recently Montana's Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee received recommendations on climate change in a report destined for our governor. Both the report and S. 2191 discuss/recommend mandating cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. The unintended consequences of this could be drastic.

If S. 2191 were to pass, it is estimated that we could see gas prices increase a further 15 percent by 2015 while wholesale electricity prices might increase by up to 65 percent. Furthermore, job losses nationally are projected at upwards of 2 million as a result of the bill. I believe it is important to deal with climate change, but doing so at the expense of the American economy could be very dangerous.

Before Congress or Gov. Schweitzer begin to implement their climate change regulations, they, too, should look at the unintended economic consequences of their decisions. Cutting back on greenhouse emissions is a worthy goal, but the policies we pursue need to incorporate a technological approach that will both promote economic growth and the efficient use of energy while addressing environmental concerns.

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