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Choking off coal use would hurt Americans

Sens. Joe Lieberman and John Warner co-sponsored America's Climate Security Act late last year. This piece of legislation seeks to curb U.S. carbon emissions and could be considered as early as this spring.

While taking steps to clean up our environment is appropriate and needed, the Lieberman-Warner bill goes too far by sacrificing economic prosperity and American jobs for goals that are frankly unattainable.

The bill would place a cap-and-trade emissions program on American energy plants without allocating financial resources to help further the development of clean coal technologies.

Since over 50 percent of our nation's energy is produced from coal plants, limiting their production as a cap on emissions may effectively cause the cost of electricity to skyrocket.

Worse yet, it could result in the loss of West Virginia jobs just as our economy looks poised to slide into a recession.

Climate change is an important issue, and finding the right balance between environmental protection and economic prosperity should be the goal.

Unfortunately, the Lieberman-Warner bill is not the solution.

Jason Webb

Cross Lanes