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Letters: Monday, March 24, 2008

## **Climate proposal would make it worse**

As Americans are becoming increasingly aware of climate change, pressure has been put on our state and national leaders to address the issue. Last year, the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security bill was introduced to seriously confront climate change.

Unfortunately, the bill falls short of its lofty goals; in fact, it may leave Americans in a worse position than we are in today.

The Lieberman-Warner bill would make mandatory proposed cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. But mandating cuts in greenhouse gas emissions effectively translates to a cutback in the sources of the emissions, predominantly energy generation.

It is estimated that if enacted, the Lieberman-Warner bill would increase gas prices another 15 percent by 2015.

Wholesale electricity prices would increase by as much as 65 percent. Job losses nationally are projected at upwards of two million as a result of the bill.

At a time when America is facing the possibility of a recession, the last thing Americans need is for the U.S. Senate to pass legislation that would lead to any loss of jobs.

Gov. Manchin understands the issue of climate change and how important a secure source of energy is to Americans.

As for the mandatory emission cuts proposed by the Lieberman-Warner bill, Manchin said: "Anybody can talk and beat up coal: They don't like it."

He went on to say, "But I can assure you, they're not going to turn their lights or their demand for energy off."

I believe Sens. Robert C. Byrd and Jay Rockefeller are as practical in their approach to climate change as Manchin is.

Instead of handing down mandates that would raise energy prices and cost Americans their jobs, our leaders can join together in encouraging the further development of ways to clean up coal-based energy production, including making sure America's next generation of power plants are environmentally and economically sustainable.

*Stephanie Clemons*

*Buckhannon*