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Coal must take on clean technology

Editor:

Climate change should be taken seriously by all West Virginians. Some people may still disagree, but most Americans realize that the climate is changing and something should be done about it. The debate has turned from the merits of climate change to what we can do to combat it.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is part of the solution, but the current bill under consideration by the U.S. Senate, S2191, goes too far. It places arbitrary reductions on greenhouse gas emission levels without any considerations of economic consequences. It is estimated that the reduction levels called for in S2191 may result in over 2 million job losses for working Americans. Many of these jobs may be from the coal and coal-derived-energy industries.

Rather than curbing coal usage, we should research and invest in new technologies such as clean coal and liquid coal plants. The United States has the largest coal reserves in the world and pursuing clean-coal technologies as part of a more comprehensive solution to climate change makes economic and environmental sense.

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