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Clean coal research is greatly needed [Return to top](#)

It is great news to hear that researchers in Russell County are beginning to actively test clean coal technologies. If carbon dioxide controls are going to be implemented by Congress, we need to have carbon emission limiting technologies available for when that day comes. Waiting to fully develop alternative energy sources and clean technologies until it is too late would be a recipe for economic disaster.

Affordable energy is the hallmark of any prosperous economy, and our leaders should keep this in mind as they craft an energy policy for America. It is a fact that coal accounts for over half of the energy generated across our nation. Additionally, in regions like Southwest Virginia, the use of coal stimulates our local economy through the high paying jobs surrounding the mining industry. Rather than stopping the use of coal altogether as some would suggest, finding a way to incorporate it in America's energy policy as we look toward the future is the right course of action.

But the current efforts only amount to a promising start; further research and development into alternative energy sources need to be fully funded. Nuclear, solar, clean coal, and wind generated power all should be pursued as viable options for the future. Not only will we prepare ourselves for potential emission controlling legislation by developing these technologies, but we will also be able to free America from dependence on foreign energy sources. That is a goal every American should work toward.

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