

To the Editor:

In “The Climate for Change,” Al Gore mars his case for investing in clean energy infrastructure with his swipe at clean coal technology.

Far from discouraging investment in carbon capture and storage technology capable of neutralizing greenhouse gas emissions from coal-based power plants, the United States should assert global leadership in accelerating this vital antidote to climate concerns.

Mr. Gore complains that no demonstration plants exist, but he does not mention that carbon capture and storage technology is being tested in three plants abroad.

Rather than cede technology leadership to others, why shouldn't the United States demonstrate it, especially when the technology will address Mr. Gore's two other priorities — the economic crisis and energy security?

Half of the nation's electricity is generated with coal because it is affordable and plentiful, the very reasons coal use is soaring in Asia, where China's greenhouse gas emissions alone surpass our own.

Without the timely deployment of this technology here and abroad, there is little hope of reducing greenhouse gases in a world destined to need more affordable electricity.

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Washington, Nov. 10, 2008