

The Jamestown Sun

Letter to the editor: Sustainable energy practices are needed in North Dakota

The climate change legislation currently being debated in Congress is of vital importance to the well-being of North Dakotans. The Foundation for Rural Resources Management and Sustainability has joined a coalition of other groups called the North Dakota Climate Solutions Partnership, in calling people to contact our senators to support this legislation. Please encourage them to be part of a clean energy solution for our country.

FARRMS believes in the value of sustainable practices that enhance our environment and rural communities. What better sustainable practices could there be than the transition to a clean energy future utilizing diverse forms of renewable energy such as solar and wind power?

Will there be an additional cost for energy during this transition? Yes. Are we advocating stopping the use of coal as an energy source? No. In the foreseeable future, we will need all forms of energy sources as we continue to increase our electricity needs. Implementing the latest technology in the plants that we currently have will increase efficiency and also help reduce pollution that can cause asthma as well as other respiratory and health problems.

We believe that new energy generation in our nation should focus on renewable sources. That will at least keep us from increasing the rate at which we are depleting our fossil fuels supply and help us decrease our dependence on foreign nations for our energy sources. Pending legislation still needs work in order to ensure strong agricultural provisions, including offsets that producers can utilize to store carbon in the soil.

Now is the time to take action and transition to a clean energy future for our children and future generations. Think of the costs incurred when we started connecting cities, towns and farms to an electrical grid. We have reached a point again in our country where we need to make choices. Do we stay with the status quo or do we decide to be bold and make an investment in our future that will allow us to become more energy independent and sustainable? Our elected officials need to hear that this is a priority for you, our state and our nation.

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