

OPINION

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Editorials, while unsigned, represent a consensus of the
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Report on climate changes concerning

According to a recent report from University of New Hampshire scientists, emissions are contributing to a climate change in this region, predicted to take place over the next century. The report also states that the Northeast is a major producer of these harmful emissions and in a position to make a significant difference in the effort to reduce global warming.

This report should spark, or rekindle, numerous debates concerning the future of alternate energy in this state and the rest of New England. This topic has not made its way to the forefront of campaign speeches, as those are consistently dominated by talks of education funding and soliloquies of broad-based taxes. The issue, for the most part, is often dismissed as the rantings of lab rats and tree huggers. In truth, the change in climate scientists are predicting in this area would have a catastrophic impact on certain areas of this state's character and qualities.

We know some people out there would welcome the warmer weather. They would welcome not having to worry about snow tires, icy roads and listening to their car make that slow, rolling grumble noise as they try and start it on a 40-below day. On the other hand, climate change also means a change in precipitation and this state, along with many others in New England, depends greatly on snow fall for revenue. Skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing, sledding and skating are all activities that draw travelers to this state to spend their money. Money local and state governments depend on every year.

Imagine the effect these changes would have on wildlife and ecosystems, not to mention the four distinct seasons that contribute greatly to the area's charm and character.

Fossil fuels are a major contributor to the emission problem and not enough is being done to wean this country off its dependency on oil...and not just foreign oil.

So the next time the issue of alternate, clean energy comes up in your town, whether it be wind, solar or hydro power being proposed, give some thought to the long-term well-being of future generations. If we keep putting this off, it will definitely be at the forefront of campaign platforms before our lightly-clad children know what hit them.

— Littleton Courier

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