

# Address climate change cause first

Posted Oct. 27, 2014 @ 12:24 am

I appreciate your on-going editorial attention to climate change, and now your emphasis on the Pentagon's serious climate concerns. However, I disagree with your final conclusion: "For too long we've been spinning our wheels, stuck on one question: Are humans largely responsible for climate change? Maybe it's time we set that question aside in favor of some others: What problems might a changing climate create, and what options do we have for dealing with them?"

This conclusion assumes all climate issues have the same time frame for constructive action: adapting for 6 foot sea level rise needs to be accomplished in the same time frame as dealing with the root cause of climate change, human overuse of fossil fuels. This assumption is false. Most climate adaptation problems, especially sea rise, can wait while warming continues. However, fossil fuel emissions must be reduced immediately to prevent warming from spinning out of control, at which point humanity won't be able to adapt adequately. Warming can spin out of control? Yes, this century it can accelerate beyond our control even if we were to suddenly eliminate all emissions.

If a driver were zipping down the highway chugalugging a bottle of whiskey, would you advise him to put on his seat belt and make sure he has his registration and insurance card with him? Or would you tell him to stop drinking and pull over?

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