

## Coal's last gasp

Editor: Media Matters has reported at length on newspapers publishing misleading energy articles by Terry Jarrett without identifying his ties to the coal industry. Jarrett, a lawyer representing coal interests and coal-burning utilities, has a history of distorting the economics and grid impacts of clean energy policies.

Times-Tribune readers won't learn what they need to know about the economics and future of renewable energy from Jarrett ("Keep coal, nukes online," Nov. 16). Rather, the Financial Times provides reliable, up-to-date information. It reported in May that renewable energy has become financially unstoppable. One example: An international wind developer recently won a contract guaranteeing to provide electricity at a cheaper rate than fossil fuel bidders — even guaranteeing that the wind farm would meet electricity demand 24 hours daily. The reason renewables can guarantee to meet demand 24/7, no matter the weather, is that battery prices have dropped by 50 percent since 2014 and will drop another 30 percent by 2021. The Financial Times noted that battery prices are falling because production is accelerating: Tesla's Gigafactory is only one of 14 battery megafactories being built or planned. With recent gubernatorial elections, it seems New Jersey and Virginia will join the Northeast's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to lower electricity sector emissions. Electricity emissions among states in the initiative group have dropped about 40 percent while our economies have grown and our electricity rates have declined.

Meanwhile, average U.S. electricity rates have increased. Don't let fearmongers stop Pennsylvania from joining the regional initiative's successful, well-functioning program. Our clean energy future is unstoppable.

JUDY WEISS

BROOKLINE, MASSACHUSETTS

[LINK](#)