

## **Insist on climate action**

Kudos for The Journal Gazette's March 28 Furthermore item summarizing a recent study warning about sea-level rise accelerating in an irreversible, vicious cycle sooner than previous studies expected. It's a complicated, upsetting subject, and your summary conveyed the main idea, hopefully getting sand out of readers' ears.

However, you omitted one detail: the study's scientists know we can cut carbon emissions quickly enough to prevent this irreversible cycle, but they assume we won't. The study assumed that John Q. Public will passively let state and federal governments slowly and ineffectively cut emissions (as America is doing now), and that Jane Doe would submissively allow officials and utility companies to sue and fight against cutting emissions (like Gov. Mike Pence).

To understand that America isn't cutting emissions adequately, readers should learn about a February study by Harvard University researchers. They studied how to measure America's emissions of methane – one type of carbon emission that is more potent at warming the climate in the short term than carbon dioxide. They found that our methane emissions rose 30 percent in the last decade. Governors, senators and representatives don't have to support EPA regulations to cut carbon dioxide and methane. Instead, they can enact legislation to cut carbon emissions using a market-based system proposed by Republican economists and Republican leaders. But doing nothing isn't a reasonable option.

Hoosiers mustn't tolerate Pence's rebellion. Voters can insist that Sens. Dan Coats and Joe Donnelly, and Rep. Marlin Stutzman sponsor carbon emissions legislation. Voters should promise that their continuing support will depend on climate legislation being passed before November's election. Let's turn the tide on rebelling against the laws of physics, and prevent irreversible, accelerating sea level rise before our children call us "mud."

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