

Letter writer was right about climate change ... and wrong

Concerning Dale Singleton's letter to the editor about climate change [**"Claims are about crony capitalism, not climate," March 5**]: The letter is right and wrong.

Singleton is right: We humans live on a big planet. No single human can change ocean temperatures or currents. However, one can imagine 7 billion people all doing the same thing can have profound effects. Remember when everyone would call Mom on Mother's Day and the only long-distance server was AT&T, and sometimes you couldn't get a long-distance line?

Singleton is also right: Humans can't change solar flares. However, scientists demonstrated conclusively that solar activity cannot account for the change in global average temperatures. Actually, a recent decline in solar activity should have made the last decade cooler, but measurements show warming instead.

Singleton is right: Crony capitalism is problematic. Industries that have been successful want to maintain their market share so they use expensive advertising and political lobbying to maintain their control. Part of the advertising includes convincing the public the use of coal, oil and gas by humans cannot affect the planet.

Singleton's objections to ethanol and government-planned renewable projects are legitimate. However, the answer is a carbon tax to allow the free market to choose solutions.

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<http://www.rgj.com/article/20140308/OPED/303070041/Letter-writer-right-about-climate-change-wrong>