

Letter: Stop electing climate change deniers

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Thank you for Brian Maffly's article [detailing a switch from trucks transporting coal to transporting oil](#) without obtaining permits, possible dangers from emissions and ground spills, and options to use trains or build a pipeline. What a complicated subject that becomes divisive as oil jobs are acclaimed, health implications magnified, highway congestion weighed and accusations of favoritism for the oil industry are raised.

There are parallels: Utah gets 95 percent of its electricity from coal even though studies show that ash generated from burning coal to make electricity carries about 100 times more radiation to surrounding areas than nuclear power plants do. Why is coal ash disposal treated more laxly than nuclear waste?

What about natural gas and radiation? Fracking generates radioactive waste which many drillers dump in waste sites not permitted for radioactive waste.

All these radiation dangers sound scarier than global warming. Should we focus on radiation risks? Actually, compared to the health, safety and economic dangers of global warming, these radiation dangers are miniscule.

Why won't Congress protect us from global warming with legislation to lower emissions faster than EPA regulations can? Because voters don't make global warming their top elections issue.

Please, stop electing climate change deniers.

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<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/opinion/58468878-82/coal-oil-radiation-dangers.html.csp>