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National interest demands reform of energy policy

In regard to “2016 Was Atlanta’s Warmest Year On Record,” it’s a tribute to the restrictions of our habits of thought — strongly supported by deceptive politics — that in the flurry of concern over the harsh impacts of climate on Georgia’s tidal marsh, there’s virtually no discussion of the causes of climate change, much less a plan of corrective action.

The jury is in, substantiated by the vast majority of climate scientists — it’s the greenhouse gases (GHGs), folks!

Although it is undeniable that the release of carbon dioxide and methane is trapping heat in the earth’s atmosphere, we continue to blithely support the very activities that cause this problem — namely the production and use of fossil fuels.

Not the least of these ironies is the perversity of continued U.S. tax-subsidy of Big Oil, which is on the order of \$50 billion annually, six times the level of government support for clean energy, solar and wind, to which we need to convert as rapidly as possible.

A close second in the abandonment of rationality is the avid support for using natural gas, which is linked to enormous leaks of methane, making natural gas actually worse than burning coal in terms of GHG releases.

Rather than bemoan the loss of tidal marsh as if climate-change is an act of God, why not resolve to move quickly to address the climate issue by (1) eliminating government support for fossil fuels, (2) ramping up public subsidies for clean energy, and (3) investing in the long-delayed “smart-grid” that will maximize the efficiency and benefits of clean energy?

Never has our pursuit of national interest been so conflicted by political bias and habits of corrupt, counter-productive thinking.

The Center for a Sustainable Coast is committed to supporting the urgently needed clean-energy transformation, essential to reducing climate threats.

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