

Letters: Column was filled with errors, emotion

<https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/opinion/letters/2018/03/27/letters-column-filled-errors-emotion/464617002/>

Peter Goodman's column on increasing Las Cruces' renewable energy percentage is filled with errors, emotion and virtue-signaling: a recipe for expensive electrical power in a poverty-endemic region.

Errors in Peter's Column: "fossil fuels are costly and grow more so;" Institute for Energy Research data show nuclear's costs steady, coal's cost rising only slowly, gas' cost decreasing rapidly. Peter seems unaware gas' cost has plummeted, causing state revenue falls, and funding reductions at NMSU and LCPS.

U.S. western states rainfall is controlled by water temperatures offshore in the Pacific; when temperatures are warm, it's called El Nino, with plentiful rainfall here. When it's cold, we get the droughts. Beginning in 1999, we entered perhaps 30 years of colder offshore waters called the Pacific Decadal Oscillation-Cold; the current dry spell is reminiscent of the 1950s droughts, when PDO-Cold was dominant. This, not use of fossil fuels, explains drought and low Rio Grande flows in recent years.

Attributing droughts, wildfires and floods to use of fossil fuels is just wrong, as examining data from NOAA's Climate at a Glance, the National Interagency Fire Center, and data presented to Congress, showing flood damages decreased 75 percent since 1940.

As fossil fuels use increased, our standard of living increased dramatically. Visit the Farm and Ranch Museum and understand that before fossil fuels came here, water was pumped by windmills (and life expectancy was 47 years).

Atmospheric CO2 isn't pollution; it's the source of all the carbohydrates in our food.

Temperatures are rising slowly, responding to the 1000-year Bond Cycles, but aren't as warm as in the Minoan, Roman, and Medieval warm periods.

Robert W. Endlich

Las Cruces