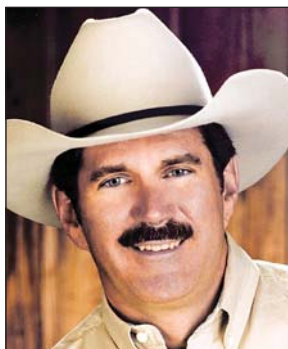


Coal, especially clean coal, will have its role in energy

RM Question: *A somewhat “imperfect storm” is brewing in Montana in that the reduction of CO₂ emissions in proposed legislation hits at a time when the state’s considerable coal resources might constitute an economic boon. Is there a future for coal in Montana?*



Representative Denny Rehberg

Montana has the largest recoverable coal reserves in the U.S. But we rank sixth in coal energy production.

If America is going to truly achieve energy independence, we need to put programs in place to foster clean coal projects. One of the best ways to do this is by offering incentives to convince potential investors that there is a viable future for coal and clean-coal technolo-

gies will be good business.

One project is FutureGen, the world’s first coal-fired zero-emissions electricity and hydrogen power plant.

Through the use of advanced coal gasification technologies and carbon capture and storage, FutureGen offers to use our plentiful American coal resources to meet our growing energy needs, while protecting the health of our people and our environment. I’ve secured

funding for the Zero Emissions Research and Technology Center at MSU, which is developing ways to mitigate carbon emissions.

We have coal projects in the works. The Highwood Generating Station and proposed coal-to-liquids plants at Malmstrom and other areas in Montana could both be domestic energy centers. But development is unlikely if the federal government won’t show its support.



Senator Max Baucus

Increasing energy production in Montana and around the country is a win-win. If we boost energy production at home, we’ll lower energy prices and create more good-paying jobs, which will also boost our state’s economy.

As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee I’m working to provide incentives to boost our state’s natural energy sources.

Montana has more than 120 billion tons of coal and more than half of the country’s electricity comes from coal. There is no way to meet our energy demands without it, so coal has to have a future in Montana and the rest of the country.

In the energy bill that’s moving through Congress, I’m working on ways to spur clean-coal electricity and clean-coal gasification. Both incentives include require-

ments for carbon capture and sequestration. I’m looking to expand the CREBs program to apply to coal as well.

In the Climate Change bill that I helped write and pass out of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I’ve carved out \$230 billion between 2012 and 2050 to develop and deploy next generation clean-coal technology. This will go a long way in helping to invest and boost clean-coal production.



Senator Jon Tester

The rising cost of energy hits close to home for Sharla and me.

Montana is set to play a major role in developing energy using the many resources we have.

Right now coal is the easiest thing to talk about. We have tons and tons of it. Coal will be a big part of the equation for decades to come.

Coal brings not only energy, but good-paying jobs and

economic development.

We have enough coal to power us for the next 200 years. But we must do it in a clean, responsible way.

That’s why I’m working on legislation to make it easier for coal developers to significantly cut carbon emissions. MSU is home to an important research project to what it takes to capture pollution that causes global warming and safely store it underground.

Farmers will play a role by planting crops and adopting practices that absorb carbon and receiving incentives for doing so. It’s cutting-edge stuff, and it’s critical for Montana to be at the forefront as we tap into coal.

It’s safest to invest in resources as we have in Montana. Wind. Solar. Geothermal energy in Iceland heats most of its homes. It uses the same sort of hot springs you find in Montana.