

## **Tanning salon wins ruling against MU**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monday, November 16, 2009

A court has ruled that a privately owned tanning salon on the University of Missouri campus can stay open at that site for another year, despite the school's concerns about the health risks for students.

The university had tried since May 2008 to terminate its contract with the tanning salon in the Student Recreation Complex, citing cancer risks for those who use the facility. The owners of The Spa filed a breach-of-contract lawsuit in July 2008 against the Board of Curators for the four-campus University of Missouri system.

Boone County Circuit Judge Kevin Crane ruled Tuesday that the earliest the university can terminate its lease with Tan Time, the company that owns The Spa, is Dec. 31, 2010, the Columbia Missourian reported.

Crane also ruled that MU need not compensate Tan Time for lost profits and improvements of the leased space.

The university added the tanning services to the Student Recreation Complex after students expressed an interest in tanning and massages in a 2004 student survey, said Diane Dahlmann, director of MizzouRec services and facilities. Tan Time won the bid in August 2006 and invested \$250,000 to build The Spa.

# the maneater

## Rec Center tanning beds to stay through 2010

*The tanning company's claims for \$190,000 in damages by MU were denied.*

**By David Conway**  
Published Nov. 17, 2009

The legal battle surrounding the tanning beds in the Student Recreation Complex reached its conclusion last week when a judge ruled MU's lease with Tan Time LLC could not be terminated until Dec. 31, 2010.

The court denied Tan Time's claims for damages from MU, one for \$32,000 for loss of profits during a temporary closure in August 2008 and another for \$158,000 for the loss of money invested in the location at the recreation complex.

In his findings, Circuit Judge Kevin Crane said the temporary closure of The Spa, which is located in the recreation center and operated by Tan Time, in 2008 did not represent a significant loss of profit and the improvements were the cost of doing business.

"The court finds that there is no persuasive evidence to show that the university engaged in any unlawful conduct under the lease that directly and proximately damaged (Tan Time)," court documents stated.

MU lawyer Kelly Mescher said though the decision blocked MU's attempt to terminate Tan Time's lease before 2010, officials were content with the court's ruling.

"While the university would have liked to exercise the option to terminate the lease with Tan Time LLC it believed was provided for in the contract documents, it is willing to let Tan Time operate through the end of 2010 without interruption unless there is a breach of the agreement by Tan Time," Mescher said.

"University officials were pleased that the court agreed with the university that Tan Time did not suffer any damage from being closed for one week in August 2008."

Mescher said MU has no plans to appeal the decision, as the lease would most likely expire before any decision was reached through an appellate court.

Representatives for Tan Time could not be reached for comment.

Freshman Camila Remolina said she was aware of the legal efforts to terminate Tan Time's lease but didn't think The Spa should be removed from the recreation center.

"I think it's somebody's choice if they want to tan or not," Remolina said. "Just a couple of miles away there's more tanning salons, so why not have them here?"

Sophomore Alex Denison said though he understands some students' desire to tan, he agrees with the decision to remove the tanning beds from the recreation complex.

"When you've got something like tanning going on in a place that's university owned and supposed to focus on good health, it seems kind of misguided," Denison said. "Why not have a steroid bar while you're at it?"

Mescher said despite the drawn-out legal conflict, she expects the remainder of Tan Time's lease to run smoothly.

"The Rec Services staff has had a good working relationship with Tan Time's staff throughout this lawsuit," Mescher said. "The litigation has not affected the operation of the business and I do not anticipate that there will be any difficulties as the lease continues through 2010."

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## Greek boards draft new policy to make socials safer

By Tanya Ortiz

November 17, 2009 | 12:01 a.m. CST

COLUMBIA — MU fraternities and sororities have agreed to a joint social policy that places new limits on the parties they sponsor.

The policy includes a limit of 700 guests at off-campus socials and sponsorship by no more than two Greek chapters. Such gatherings will also be required to have someone appointed as a "sober monitor" to ensure everyone abides by the law.

The Panhellenic Association that governs most MU sororities ratified the changes on Monday night. The new policy had already been approved by the Interfraternity Council, which governs some of the fraternities.

Lindsey Hoffman, Panhellenic Association vice president of public relations, said the policy was drafted after a bus ran over a man at a fraternity event hosted by three Greek organizations at Les Bourgeois Winery.

Hoffman said it took the incident at Les Bourgeois to make the board take action, even though off-campus socials were already getting "out of control."

Hoffman said "the lack of accountability with guest lists, little to no monitoring of buses and the minimal security precautions taken on behalf of the sponsoring chapters" were problems that had been largely ignored until the winery incident.

"Most of these steps are just to keep that from ever happening (again)," said Ryan Morimura, Interfraternity Council vice president of public relations. "Our goal as an executive board is to make sure we are looking out for the entire community."

Morimura said MU didn't require them to revise the policy. "There wasn't necessarily pressure to change it," he said. "We just felt that it was necessary."

Lauren Hatch, vice president of risk management for the Panhellenic Association, said the boards

surveyed policies at other colleges and considered what would work best for MU's Greek community.

The changes the boards made to the policy include:

- Limiting the number of sponsors and guests. No more than two chapters can sponsor a social event, down from four, without special permission. Only 700 guests will be allowed to attend events hosted by two chapters, and events sponsored by one chapter have a limit of one guest per member. "Often, two or more chapters would get together to host a co-sponsored social where literally anybody could come," Hoffman said. "In these instances, some venues had hundreds of students show up and were not prepared to host all of them."
- Requiring the presence of "sober monitors" at social events. Monitors will be members of the chapter, and their responsibility is to ensure all state, local and federal laws are followed. There must be at least one monitor for every 100 guests.
- Fraternities and sororities must provide a list of confirmed guests who plan to attend an event by the day before it occurs. Chapters will be fined \$150 for a late list and \$300 plus a date with the Greek Judicial Board for failing to turn in a list.

Although the Panhellenic Council's former social policy stated that guest lists were required by noon on the day of the social, Hoffman said some chapters were turning in rosters that listed the names of all of their members instead of lists with the names of confirmed guests.

"If your name is not on the list, you aren't getting on the bus, and you are not getting into the social," Hoffman said.

- Any establishment that a chapter chooses to host an event at must be certified by the State of Missouri Alcohol Responsibility Training program. The program teaches establishment employees how to recognize fake identification, how to spot signs of third party transactions and how to deal with intoxicated customers.
- To be eligible to host a social event, all chapters must be in good standing with the Office of Greek Life, the Interfraternity Council and/or Panhellenic Association and their national or international organization.
- Each chapter is also required to participate in a social safety presentation in order to remain in good standing. Each chapter's president, social chair and risk manager must attend the social safety presentation provided by the IFC and the PHA. The presentation will cover topics such as how to appropriately register a social, how to be an effective sober

monitor and how to ensure member/guest safety.

Hatch said the policy is expected to take effect on Jan. 1, 2010.

Morimura said he hopes that the new policy will help to make off-campus socials safer but said he doesn't know that this will be the last time that changes will need to be made.

"I don't feel that these are sweeping changes," Morimura said. "It's up to the new boards to decide if there need to be new changes, but we feel that this is a good start."

# COLUMBIA MISSOURIAN

## **USA Today tests online edition at MU, other colleges**

By The Associated Press

November 16, 2009 | 5:48 p.m. CST

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — USA Today has launched a new online initiative targeting college students, with Penn State, Indiana University and the University of Missouri as the first schools to take part in the pilot program.

The "e-Edition" is free for students, faculty and staff. It is identical to the newspaper's print edition but with additional interactive and exclusive content, according to USA Today.

The newspaper is testing whether students will respond positively to the e-Edition format, spokeswoman Heidi Zimmerman said in an e-mail.

"The e-Edition product will also include a Saturday to Sunday edition called USA Today Extra, the first-ever regular weekend product from USA today," the newspaper said in literature describing the program provided Monday.

The Penn State edition, which officially launched last week, includes a university-themed story selected and written by the school. Students must remember to go to the E-edition site each day, or sign up for a daily e-mail that would link to stories, said Bill Mahon, vice president of university relations.

Penn State was picked as a partner because it was the first school to have a program promoting newspaper readership among college students in 1997, Mahon said. USA Today still is involved in that program.

"We think it had a big impact on our student body," Mahon said. "Students tell us they are more apt to speak up in class and keep up to speed on current affairs."

Newspapers in general have been searching for new sources of revenue and readership in trying to reverse years of declines amid the explosion of free online news sources.

USA Today last month reported the worst erosion in readership in its 27-year history, dropping more than 17 percent to an average circulation 1.90 million. It was surpassed as the nation's top-selling newspaper by The Wall Street Journal, whose average Monday through Friday circulation rose slightly to 2.02 million — making it the only daily newspaper in the top 25 to gain readers.



**NO MENTION**

November 17, 2009

## Nixon to outline higher education plan in Springfield

*The Associated Press*

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Gov. Jay Nixon is outlining his latest funding plan for higher education.

Nixon is to hold news conferences Tuesday at universities in St. Louis and Springfield to announce an agreement regarding future funding for Missouri's public colleges and universities.

The event at the University of Missouri-St. Louis is to start at 10:30 a.m.

A similar event is scheduled for 1:15 p.m. at Missouri State University.



## **Mizzou considers degree program with South Korea**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monday, November 16, 2009

The University of Missouri might team up with a new university in South Korea that would allow Asian students to earn a degree from the U.S. school.

Missouri hopes to receive a \$1 million grant from the South Korean government to develop a degree program in an undetermined field.

The Songdo Global University Campus already is working with the State University of New York at Stony Brook and North Carolina State University on similar ventures.

George Mason University, Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Delaware also are considering South Korean partnerships.

# the maneater

## MU to help create university in South Korea

*The university would offer American degrees.*

**By Rachel Allred**  
Published Nov. 17, 2009

Several American universities, including MU, were invited to collaborate with the South Korean government to contribute to Songdo Global University, a university under construction in South Korea, to offer American degrees.

Deputy Chancellor Michael Middleton said MU is in the process of negotiating an agreement to spend a year planning what the university can offer Songdo Global University. He said they hope to have the agreement finalized by the end of the year, but the process could take several months.

"Our biggest problem is figuring out how to deliver the programs," Middleton said. "They haven't specified exactly what they want other than that they want American degrees offered there in South Korea."

The new university would not be a Korean university, but an American university located in South Korea. Middleton said he was told students in Asia have a desire to receive American degrees.

"They want this new global city to be a hub for eastern and southeastern Asia," Middleton said. "There is a great demand in that area for American degrees. Unfortunately, they can't all travel to America for degrees. They say, 'Since they can't afford to travel internationally, perhaps we can convince American universities to come and offer degrees.'"

Middleton said, among others, North Carolina State University and the University of Southern California have been invited to be part of this collaboration.

At a recent Faculty Council meeting, Chairwoman Leona Rubin said the presence of an American university would draw students to the city.

"It's one of those things that if you build it, they will come," Rubin said.

International Programs Vice Provost Handy Williamson said if MU continues to move forward on the project, the university's contributions would be one of many parts.

"We're not running the show," Williamson said. "We're part of a consortium."

Middleton said MU professors, faculty from other participating American universities and Korean professors will most likely teach the courses.

Williamson said the colleges of Education, Veterinary Medicine, Arts and Science and Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources would possibly offer courses and more colleges would participate in the future.

Williamson said the invitation to assist in the operation of Sungdo University is an honor that probably relates to the long connection between American and Korean education.

"Our invitation could be attributed to Harry S. Truman," Williamson said. "At the end of World War II an agreement was signed enabling many Korean students to come to the U.S. and attend universities."

After the agreement was signed, a large number of Korean students streamed to MU.

Rubin said South Korea has presented an opportunity that is not often encountered.

"It's really a unique type of program we're putting together," Rubin said.

Although the partnership is not yet set in stone, Middleton said the likelihood of South Korea and MU joining forces again is very high.

One factor that will be considered is compensation and the effects on the community.

"If we determine that MU and the state wouldn't benefit from this, we won't go forward," Williamson said.

South Korea would help finance the planning process and the university, Middleton said.

"My understanding is it will certainly give us around \$1 million to finance the planning year," Middleton said. "They will build the infrastructure. There will likely be some costs that won't be covered by tuition and fees in the initial couple of years. They've offered to work with us in providing some of that start up money."

## Police open training site

### Simulator for driving is next.

By Brennan David Monday, November 16, 2009

The Columbia Police Department will open its regional training center with a 3:30 p.m. ceremony today that will launch improved tactical training opportunities for local law enforcement.

Mayor Darwin Hindman, City Manager Bill Watkins and Police Chief Ken Burton will all speak at the ceremony that includes a tour of the facility.

The Columbia Police Training Center is in the Robert M. LeMone Building, 5001 Meyer Industrial Drive, and houses more than 9,500 square feet of space with two offices, four classrooms, a garage and an outside training area.

The two smaller classrooms temporarily house a firearms simulator donated by the Columbia Police Foundation in August.

They will house a driving simulator to be purchased with a nearly \$200,000 grant the department received.

The firearms simulator eventually will move to the loft, where officers will have more room to mimic cover and other actions officers could face in real life, said Officer Jessie Haden, Columbia police spokeswoman.

Columbia police are still gathering quotes for the new driving simulator, estimated to cost \$114,585. Grant funding also has been used to purchase scheduling programs, computer modems, project and smart boards and laptop computers.

"Many people believe the greatest liability for law enforcement is that they are armed. That is not true," Haden said. "It's driving. Officers drive under stress and adverse conditions, and we still expect them to answer calls within a moment's notice. We expect a lot."

In past years, driving training was done at the airport, where police vehicles and many man-hours were expended for the training, Haden said.

Cars were placed under a considerable amount of stress and required maintenance after the training.

Like the firearms simulator, officers will instead have the opportunity to train year-round in the driving simulator and can do so without the expense of travel and vehicle maintenance and employee setup time.

The training center also will benefit surrounding departments, including the Boone County Sheriff's Department and University of Missouri Police, which will be allowed access to the training facility as long as it does not interfere with Columbia police operations, Haden said.

"It's a benefit when agents can train in the same environment and under the same situations," said Maj. Tom Reddin of the sheriff's department.

"It really makes a difference in the smoothness in how things work out when working an incident."

Construction began on the training center in October 2008. The building was donated by Bob LeMone.

Reach Brennan David at 573-815-1718 or e-mail [bpdavid@columbiatribune.com](mailto:bpdavid@columbiatribune.com).

# theman eater

## Vandalism prompts RHA request for more security cameras

*A resolution was passed to request the cameras on suite-style floors.*

**By Luke Udstuen**  
Published Nov. 17, 2009

Vandalism and destruction of property incidents have influenced the Residence Halls Association to pass a resolution requesting security cameras be put on suite-style floors in residence halls.

Debate sparked in the process of passing this resolution and had strong opinions on both sides.

There have been specific instances in which cameras would have helped find vandals.

"The thing I'm worried about is someone came in and urinated in a study hall when they were drunk and tore a bunch of posters down," representative Roman Shmulevich said.

Residential Life policy indicates all students will share the cost of damages incurred if the vandals are not found.

"When you get put in that situation, where you have to pay for something and it's not your fault, you would want those video cameras there to help catch the people who did it, when it's not your fault," representative Roger Cheng said.

RHA spokeswoman Emily Patterson said she had to pay for vandalism caused by only a few students.

"When Hatch got egged a couple of weeks ago, I had to pay for it because I lived on that floor," Patterson said.

Representatives who opposed the resolution cited privacy issues.

"I'm opposed to this because I feel like Big Brother would be watching us," representative Joseph Bowles said. "How much privacy do we have on campus anyway? There's always cameras watching us. I'd like to have privacy in our own dorms."

Representative Jacob Novak doubted Residential Life would put security cameras directly in the hallway outside of student rooms.

"I'm only in favor of this if it addresses stairwells," Novak said.

MUPD Capt. Scott Richardson said video footage has helped investigations in the past.

"There are numerous ways we use video footage for arrest," Richardson said. "We don't sit there and monitor footage. But after a crime has occurred, we are able to go back to footage and look at it. So, it has helped on numerous occasions."

Certain areas of residence halls are designated as public and privacy shouldn't be an issue in public spaces, Richardson said.

Although privacy concerns exist, other representatives said security cameras could catch people who have been physically harmed.

"My freshman year, five fire extinguishers were discharged," Novak said.

One of the extinguishers was discharged in Novak's friend's room.

"They woke up inhaling a dry chemical. I don't know what that feels like, but inhaling fiberglass particles, burning of the esophagus, is not pleasant," Novak said. "With cameras, that person would have been caught."

Issues affecting residence halls are different based on their location.

"We are the farthest north, the closest to downtown," representative Allison Repking said of McDavid residence hall. "We've had multiple instances of people from downtown coming and breaking things and then leaving."

Repking said cameras would also prevent unwelcome visitors.

"We've actually had a homeless man sleeping inside of our lounge," Repking said.

RHA President Rachael Feuerborn said a logical analysis of the problem is needed.

"The important thing to measure would be the benefit of having the cameras if something were to happen, versus how much harm would the camera cause by being there," Feuerborn said. "Hypothetically, if the camera was there and it wasn't used, nothing is lost."

# ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

## **MU MENTION PG. 3**

### **New breast screening guidelines spark controversy**

By Blythe Bernhard

**POST-DISPATCH**

Tuesday, Nov 17 2009

A monumental change to breast cancer guidelines released Monday set off a heated debate about the value of mammograms and early detection.

Most women don't need mammograms before they turn 50, according to the new guidelines from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, an independent panel of experts that regularly reviews the benefits of cancer screenings and other preventive medical care.

Two-thirds of women over 40 report having had a mammogram, an X-ray taken of breast tissue to detect cancerous cells, in the previous two years. But how much mammograms cut the risk of dying of breast cancer, and at what cost in terms of unnecessary treatment, expense and worry, have been debated.

More than 192,000 new cases of breast cancer and 40,000 deaths from the disease occur in the U.S. each year.

Most medical organizations call for all women 40 and older to receive annual mammograms. Now, the task force says mammograms are of certain benefit only to women 50 and older, and then only every other year.

The task force also found that breast self-exams are useless to prevent deaths.

"It happens all the time that recommendations may change based on improved data," said Dr. David Grossman, director of preventive care at the University of Washington and a member of the government-sponsored panel. "Doctors are used to coping with that."

Grossman said the main reason for changing the guidelines on mammograms was new information about the risk of false positive results, which can lead to

unnecessary biopsies and a psychological toll on patients.

False positive results from mammograms are much more common among women in their 40s, the researchers found.

The benefits of early universal screening do not merit mammograms' use when compared with the benefits for the overall population, according to the panel's report. The guidelines are not intended for women with a family history of breast cancer or a genetic mutation that puts them at higher risk.

Looking at data from clinical trials, the panel estimated that mammograms prevent one death for every 1,900 women ages 40-49 who receive annual mammograms. The ratio changes to one death for every 1,300 women ages 50-59 and one death for every 400 women ages 60-69.

Several national organizations said Monday they would not change their own mammogram recommendations.

"This is one screening test I recommend unequivocally, and would recommend to any woman 40 and over, be she a patient, a stranger, or a family member," read a statement from Dr. Otis Brawley, chief medical officer of the American Cancer Society.

The society has long recommended annual screenings starting at age 40, although Brawley recently said the benefits of screening have been exaggerated and hinted at an upcoming warning on the risks.

Mammograms can't save women from the most aggressive and deadly cancers, and can catch other tumors that are slow-growing and would never prove to be fatal, according to the task force's report.

The changes to the task force's guidelines concern women like Helen Chesnut, who was diagnosed at age 44 with breast cancer detected by a mammogram.

"If the cancer had been growing from (age) 44 to 50, my prognosis would have been a whole lot different," said Chesnut, executive director of the St. Louis affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, which sponsors mammograms for uninsured and low-income women.

The Komen organization "will continue to advocate for women 40-49 to get annual mammograms," Chesnut said. "You need to be aware of the changes in your breasts at any age."

One task force member said he worries that mammograms have given women a false sense of security.

The controversy over the guidelines are based on "the fear that we all have of cancer, and the notion that any chance to potentially save one life, one person, somewhere, sometime, means that we should do that," **said Dr. Michael LeFevre, professor of family and community medicine at the University of Missouri-Columbia,** who has served on the task force for about five years. "There's a fervent belief that any and all cancer screening can have only benefit and not harms, and that's clearly not the case."

Other physicians argued that the new guidelines could discourage women from seeking medical attention.

"I think they came to the wrong recommendations," said Dr. Barbara Monsees, chief of breast imaging at Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. "We know it's just going to add to women's confusion."

The task force is a government-sponsored group of volunteer doctors and scientists that regularly makes recommendations on many types of disease screenings and other preventive health care measures. Although the task force does not take economic impacts into consideration, its recommendations have been used as guidelines by Medicare and private insurance companies to approve or deny coverage.

But a spokeswoman for America's Health Insurance Plans, an industry group, said insurance coverage isn't likely to change because of the new guidelines.

The task force looked at mathematical models to determine what would happen if women were screened at different ages and time intervals.

The probability of dying of breast cancer after age 40 is 3 percent, they calculated.

Starting mammograms at age 40 would prevent one additional death but also lead to 470 false alarms for every 1,000 women screened. Continuing mammograms through age 79 prevents three additional deaths but raises the number of women treated for breast cancers that would not threaten their lives.

Dr. Amy Abernethy of the Duke Comprehensive Cancer Center agreed with the task force's changes.

"Overall, I think it really took courage for them to do this," she said. "It does ask us as doctors to change what we do and how we communicate with patients. That's no small undertaking."

Abernethy, who is 41, said she got her first mammogram the day after her 40th birthday even though she wasn't convinced it was needed. Now she doesn't plan to have another mammogram until she is 50.

Doctors including members of the task force said the guidelines should be used as a launching point for women to discuss their options with their physicians.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

If you enjoy reading about interesting news, you might like the 3 O'Clock Stir from STLtoday.com. Sign up and you'll receive an email with unique stories of the day, every Monday-Friday, at no charge.

Sign up at <http://newsletters.stltoday.com>



## ■ Debate

### **Our view on climate change: Imperfect 'cap-and-trade' is best option to fight warming**

It's complex, costly — and as good as the political system can produce.

#### **No MU mention**

Reasonable people can disagree about how bad global warming will eventually be if nothing is done, and some of the doomsday scenarios might well be overblown. But virtually all climate scientists concur that it's a dire enough threat that the wise course of action is to sharply curb use of carbon-based fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas.

Ideally, that would happen without raising costs to consumers or causing some job loss, but that's a little like saying it would be nice to go to heaven without doing what's necessary to get there. Solar, wind, nuclear and virtually all lower-emission energy alternatives will cost more, at least initially. The only sure way to move from traditional fuels to a greener mix anytime soon is to begin making it more expensive to continue on the current path and let the market work out the most effective way to do it.

The simplest solution would be a gradually rising tax on carbon-based fuels. In the real world, however, that is a political non-starter, and any tax would inevitably become complex after Congress got done writing in exemptions and discounts for various groups. Further, a tax wouldn't set a hard limit on greenhouse gas emissions.

That leaves the "cap-and-trade" approach pending on Capitol Hill.

There are plenty of reasons to dislike cap-and-trade. It's complex, intrusive and would cost money and jobs. But if the threat of human-induced global warming is real, and the overwhelming weight of scientific evidence suggests that it is, this plan or something like it is probably the best tool the political system can produce to begin to counter it.

Cap-and-trade gets its name from the way it would work: Cap greenhouse gas emissions; sell or give away permits for emissions that are allowed; and have utilities, factories and other emitters trade those permits in a special market. A utility, for example, could either fix its plant to emit less greenhouse gases or buy permits from some other business to keep emitting a higher amount. Over time, the cap would get tighter and the permits more expensive.

It's complicated, but it works. Europe's cap-and-trade system for greenhouse gases, in place since 2005, has helped cut emissions 5% below 1990 levels, and reductions are on track to more than double by 2012. Closer to home, the U.S. began battling acid rain in 1990 with a cap-and-trade regime for sulfur dioxide, which combines with water vapor in the atmosphere to produce sulfuric acid. That plan worked better than even its supporters hoped, slashing emissions at far less cost than projected.

To combat climate change and promote clean energy, the House passed a cap-and-trade bill in June on a 219-212 vote that demonstrated how controversial the measure is. The Senate is waiting to take it up sometime after health care, and it won't be easy. Every Republican on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee boycotted the session when the panel approved a bill this month.

The House plan certainly needs improvement. It is stuffed with favors for well-connected lobbies, a distasteful reminder of Congress' inability to focus sharply on the national interest. And critics claim consumer costs would be in the range of \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year per household. But the neutral, non-partisan Congressional Budget Office paints a more manageable picture.

CBO's analysis of the House bill forecasts an average net cost per household of \$175 a year, with the lowest-income households receiving \$40 a year in benefits and the highest-income households paying \$245. CBO projects that job loss could be "significant" in industries tied to traditional fuels but would be offset by new jobs elsewhere. That all seems an acceptable price compared with the potential consequences of global warming — melting ice caps, rising sea levels, droughts and wildfires, shifting agricultural patterns and political instability.

Perhaps the most potent arguments against cap-and-trade are that unilateral U.S. action wouldn't be enough to reverse global warming, and that it would be self-destructive for the U.S. to act without ensuring that rapidly growing greenhouse gas polluters, such as China and India, also limit emissions.

Taken together, though, these criticisms amount to an argument for doing nothing, which is simply not an option after years of official U.S. indifference. When world leaders gather next month in Copenhagen to try to set a framework for international action, they'll be looking to the U.S. for direction.

It's true that if the U.S. acts, there's no guarantee others will go along. But it's a virtual certainty that if the U.S. doesn't lead, then no one else is likely to follow.

Posted at 12:22 AM/ET, November 17, 2009 in USA TODAY editorial | [Permalink](#)



## Opposing view: 'There is a better way'

Employ carbon-cutting strategies that don't kill jobs and raise costs.

By Kit Bond

Congress has the opportunity to promote cleaner, affordable, homegrown American energy that will result in lower carbon emissions. Unfortunately, many remain preoccupied with energy tax-raising and job-killing cap-and-trade bills to address climate change. Until we can come together to push solutions where we agree, both the American people and the environment will suffer.

Many are calling on the U.S. to cap its carbon emissions. I support cutting carbon emissions; I just want to do it without killing jobs and raising energy costs. The Congressional Budget Office, Washington's official money scorekeeper, says that cap-and-trade climate change legislation would hurt the economy and cost U.S. jobs. Even CBO is probably underestimating the costs because CBO looked at only the cheapest first 10 years of the 40-year legislation. In later years, the legislation and its costs become even greater.

Many Americans might not know much about CBO, but they do know about job losses, high energy bills, the pain at the pump and the troubles of providing for a family during these tough economic times. Missouri families and workers are struggling to make ends meet and fighting to keep their jobs. They cannot understand why we will make their lives more expensive with higher energy costs and policies that would send their manufacturing jobs to countries that produce energy at a cheaper cost, such as China. They also do not understand why we might sign an international treaty letting China and India off the hook of emissions cuts, especially when scientists tell us that the U.S. acting alone would have no impact on world temperatures.

More than 30,000 Missourians recently sent cards to my office decrying cap-and-trade legislation that would raise their retail electricity rates up to 26% by 2012, 42% by 2020, and as much as 77% under worst case scenarios. The University of Missouri's Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute found that cap-and-trade would raise production costs at a representative Missouri grain farm by \$11,650 in 2020 and \$30,150 in 2050. These are costs my Missouri constituents do not want to pay, especially when U.S. unemployment tops 10%. Yet, that is exactly the environmental policy of cap-and-trade advocates: Make energy more expensive so people use less of it.

I think there is a better way than inflicting pain on the American people. I say cut carbon emissions without raising energy prices and killing jobs with zero-carbon nuclear energy, low-carbon biofuels, low-carbon technology to clean coal emissions, low-carbon hybrid and plug-in vehicle technology, energy efficiency and conservation where it makes economic sense, and opening U.S. reserves of clean natural gas. These are carbon-cutting strategies where we can come together, and I urge my colleagues in Congress to do so as soon as possible.

*Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., is a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee.*

Posted at 12 21 AM/ET, November 17, 2009 in USA TODAY editorial | [Permalink](#)