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Gas pump prices not the real issue, says editorial

by Brian Roewe

Eco Catholic

Worrying over a dollar increase in gas prices makes but only a drop in America's larger pool of energy concerns, according to a prominent national newspaper.

Over the weekend, the editorial board of the Washington Post expressed their frustrations over the ongoing debate and blame game for rising gas prices. They wrote:

"Rising sea levels threaten to inundate low-lying roads in Louisiana, costing billions in port activity, The Post's Juliet Eilperin reports. Northrop Grumman sees potential damage to billions in shoreline defense infrastructure, such as the imperiled drydock in Hampton Roads built to construct the next generation of aircraft carriers. Other factors are also at work in these examples of rapid coastline loss. But Louisiana and Virginia offer a picture of how further sea-level rise and higher storm surges ? just one set of climate-related risks ? could seriously disrupt human activity.

America, meanwhile, is fixated on .??. paying an extra buck per gallon at the gas pump."

The Post editorial board cites a recent report by the nonpartisan Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development stating energy use worldwide is on pace to increase 80 percent by 2050 (85 percent from fossil fuels), and along with it, raise carbon emissions by 50 percent.

The editorial frames addressing these issues stand paramount to gas pump increases, saying:

"Yet the only energy debate America seems capable of having during this election year revolves around whom to blame for higher gas prices and who can bring them down again. Neither of those is the first, second or even 10th question we'd ask of America's leaders on energy."

Read the full editorial here.

In other environmental news:

While political debates continue on addressing climate change and rising sea levels, people in San Francisco move forward on their own to protect their eroding shores. [Nytimes.com]

Filmmaker and oceanographer James Cameron sent what could be considered the "deepest" tweet ever. [Treehugger.com]

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Responding to massive oil spills similar " but larger " to the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, a group of Nigerian villages has brought a case against the Royal Dutch Shell oil company. [Treehugger.com]

Eban Goldstein of Grist.org profiles Mohammed Nasheed " the Maldivian president ousted from government during a February coup " and the film "The Island President," detailing his efforts to bring international attention to the perils facing his country should sea levels continue to rise. [Grist.org]

A new Gallup poll shows Americans approve of President Barack Obama's protection of the environment, while are less satisfied with his energy policy. [Politico.com]

E. Donald Elliot of The Atlantic puts forward his case for trimming the size of the Environmental Protection Agency. [Theatlantic.com]

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