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LETTERS TO THE TIMES

Oil and Energy Alternatives

Re "Running Out of Oil — and Time" (Opinion, March 7)

Roberts is correct that, if oil becomes scarcer, prices will increase and supplies will expand as it becomes economically attractive to extract less-accessible reserves. He fails to note that demand will also decrease. High prices are a compelling signal to conserve. When prices increase, private and public funds will flow readily into the development of alternative energy sources because success will make it possible to cut costs.

Prices will not crush us. They will guide us, just as they should.

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