

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 3:41:25 PM
Subject: NOAA's website on sea level rise needs a rinse and spin

Tom Hayward, former Chief of Naval Operations and Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, has taken an interest in the climate change issue, and coauthored an excellent short report on “Climate Change, Energy Policy, and National Power” for The Heartland Institute in 2014. He writes,

Below is a quote from the NOAA web site on sea level:

Global sea level has been rising over the past century, and the rate has increased in recent decades. In 2014, global sea level was 2.6 inches above the 1993 average—the highest annual average in the satellite record (1993-present). Sea level continues to rise at a rate of about one-eighth of an inch per year.

Higher sea levels mean that deadly and destructive storm surges push farther inland than they once did, which also means more frequent nuisance flooding. Disruptive and expensive, nuisance flooding is estimated to be from 300 percent to 900 percent more frequent within U.S. coastal communities than it was just 50 years ago.

The two major causes of global sea level rise are thermal expansion caused by warming of the ocean (since water expands as it warms) and increased melting of land-based ice, such as glaciers and ice sheets. The oceans are absorbing more than 90 percent of the increased atmospheric heat associated with emissions from human activity.

What avenues are available to compel NOAA to stop these inaccurate statements?

Tom

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

This really is terrible. Some folks on the Bcc line of this message know where to find data that contradict this, and the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) addressed this issue in depth, with hundreds of references to peer-reviewed articles, in 2013:

https://www.heartland.org/_template-assets/documents/CCR/CCR-II/Chapter-6-Hydrosphere-Oceans.pdf

Can this be called to the attention of anyone at NOAA?

Joe

Joseph Bast

President

The Heartland Institute

3939 N. Wilke Road

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Phone [312/377-4000](tel:3123774000)

Email jbast@heartland.org

Web site <http://www.heartland.org>

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From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Fri 6/2/2017 8:46:55 PM
Subject: From Heartland: GUEST AVAILABILITY: Meet the 'Climate Realists' Who Helped Trump Withdraw from Paris

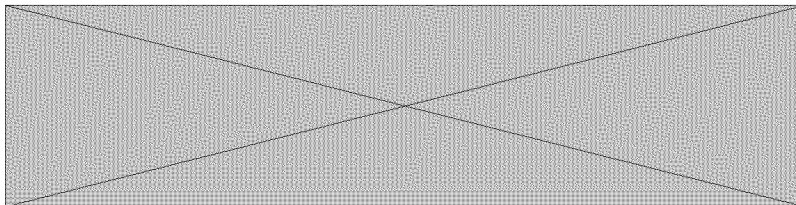
Friends,

This news release is going out now to address fake claims that **climate science** supports staying in the Paris Accord.

If you are on the list, be prepared to get a call from reporters or Jim Lakely.

Joe

From: Jim Lakely [mailto:jlakely@heartland.org]
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 2:56 PM
To: Joseph Bast
Subject: GUEST AVAILABILITY: Meet the 'Climate Realists' Who Helped Trump Withdraw from Paris



GUEST AVAILABILITY: Meet the 'Climate Realists' Who Helped Trump Withdraw from Paris

Joseph,

President Trump yesterday made the bold and correct decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement. He offered sound economic arguments for exiting the accord, but the scientific justifications for getting out are just as strong.

The Heartland Institute – a national free-market think tank based in Illinois – has done more to promote the work of scientists skeptical of catastrophic man-caused global warming than any

other organization. Below is a list of more than 200 scientists, economists, and policy experts who can make the scientific case for the United States exiting the Paris Climate Accord.

To interview any of these experts, please contact Heartland Institute Director of Communications Jim Lakely at jlakely@heartland.org or call/text 312-731-9364.

LIST OF TOP 'SKEPTICS' OF MAN-CAUSED GLOBAL WARMING		
<p>A Habibullo Abdussamatov Alexandre Aguiar Syun Akasofu George Allen Helmut Alt David Archibald J. Scott Armstrong Robert Armstrong Jerry Arnett Ron Arnold Dennis Avery</p>	<p>H Tom Harris Kenneth Haapala William Happer Howard Hayden Dennis Hedke Roger Helmer Victor Manuel Velasco Herrara Art Horn David Henderson Donald Hertzmark Christopher Horner Horst Lüdecke John Humphreys Tam Hunt Mary Hutzler</p>	<p>O James O'Brien Kendra Okonski Isaac Orr</p>
<p>B Tim Ball Robert Balling Joseph Bast Joe Bastardi Charles Battig E. Calvin Beisner Larry Bell Cory Bernardi Roger Bezdek Sonja Boehmer-Christiansen Christopher Booker Donald Boudreaux Alexandra (Sandy) Liddy Bourne Robert L. Bradley, Jr. William Briggs Barry Brill H. Sterling Burnett</p>	<p>I Craig Idso Andrei Illarionov James Inhofe Roy Innis Yuri Izrael</p>	<p>P Garth William Paltridge Genrot Patzelt Tim Patterson Benny Peiser Ian Plimer Andreas Prokoph</p>
<p>C Gabriel Calzada Francisco Capella Robert "Bob" Carter</p>		

<p><u>Alan Carlin</u> <u>John Charles</u> <u>Paul Chesser</u> <u>George Christensen</u> <u>Joseph Clark</u> <u>John Coleman</u> <u>Russell Cook</u> <u>Roy Cordato</u> <u>Piers Corbyn</u> <u>William Cotton</u> <u>Richard Courtney</u> <u>Susan Crockford</u> <u>Walter Cunningham</u></p>	<p>J <u>Avril Terri Jackson</u> <u>Jim Johnston</u> <u>Michael Jungbauer</u></p>	<p>R <u>Paul Reiter</u> <u>Arthur Robinson</u> <u>Helen Roe</u> <u>Dana Rohrabacher</u> <u>Ronald Rychlak</u></p>
<p>D <u>Joseph D'Aleo</u> <u>Kevin Dayaratna</u> <u>Donn Dears</u> <u>James Delingpole</u> <u>Scott Denning</u> <u>Harold Doiron</u> <u>David Douglass</u> <u>Paul Driessen</u> <u>Terry Dunleavy</u> <u>Becky Norton Dunlop</u> <u>John Dale Dunn</u></p>	<p>K <u>Sam Kazman</u> <u>Richard Keen</u> <u>Madhav Khandekar</u> <u>William Kininmonth</u> <u>Hon. Vaclav Klaus</u> <u>Paul C. "Chip" Knappenberger</u> <u>David Kreutzer</u> <u>Jeff Kueter</u> <u>George Kukla</u></p>	<p>S <u>Nicola Scarfetta</u> <u>David Schnare</u> <u>Harrison Schmitt</u> <u>Joel Schwartz</u> <u>Tom Segalstad</u> <u>Russell Seitz</u> <u>James Sensenbrenner</u> <u>Gary Sharp</u> <u>Nir Shaviv</u> <u>Daniel Simmons</u> <u>Randy Simmons</u> <u>S. Fred Singer</u> <u>Fred Smith</u> <u>Lamar Smith</u> <u>Lawrence Solomon</u> <u>Douglas Southgate</u> <u>Willie Soon</u> <u>Roy Spencer</u> <u>Carlo Stagnaro</u> <u>H. Leighton Steward</u> <u>John Stossel</u> <u>Aaron Stover</u> <u>John Sununu</u> <u>Brain Sussman</u> <u>Daniel Sutter</u> <u>Graeme Swindles</u></p>
<p>E <u>Don Easterbrook</u> <u>Myron Ebell</u></p>	<p>L <u>Hans Labohm</u> <u>Donna Laframbois</u> <u>David Legates</u> <u>Jay Lehr</u> <u>Marlo Lewis</u></p>	<p>T <u>James Taylor</u> <u>Thomas Tanton</u></p>

<u>James Enstrom</u> <u>Willis Eschenbach</u> <u>Christopher Essex</u> <u>Michael Economides</u> <u>David Evans</u>	<u>Bryan Leyland</u> <u>Ben Lieberman</u> <u>Richard Lindzen</u> <u>Keith Lockitch</u> <u>Craig Loehle</u> <u>Sebastian Lüning</u> <u>Anthony Lupo</u>	<u>George Taylor</u> <u>Mitchell Taylor</u> <u>John Theon</u> <u>Richard Trzupek</u> <u>David Tuerck</u>
F <u>Peter Ferrara</u> <u>Robert Ferguson</u> <u>Sr. Walter Fett</u> <u>Terrence Flower</u> <u>Michelle Michot Foss</u> <u>Eigil Friis-Christensen</u> <u>Michael Fox</u> <u>Chris de Freitas</u>	M <u>Howard Maccabee</u> <u>Ken Malloy</u> <u>Jennifer Marohasy</u> <u>Jim Martin</u> <u>Gerald Marsh</u> <u>Phelim McAleer</u> <u>Tom McClintock</u> <u>Ann McElhinney</u> <u>Stephen McIntyre</u> <u>Ross McKitrick</u> <u>Owen McShane</u> <u>Robert Mendelsohn</u> <u>Patrick Michaels</u> <u>Robert Michaels</u> <u>Steven J. Milloy</u> <u>Ferenc Miskolczi</u> <u>Barun Mitra</u> <u>Christopher Monckton</u> <u>Patrick Moore</u> <u>Kilez More</u> <u>Alan Moran</u> <u>Marc Morano</u> <u>Nils-Axel Mörner</u> <u>Julian Morris</u> <u>Robert Murphy</u> <u>Iain Murray</u> <u>Todd Myers</u>	V <u>Brian Valentine</u> <u>Jan Veizer</u>
G <u>Indur Goklany</u> <u>Fred Goldberg</u> <u>Stan Goldenberg</u> <u>Robert Gordon</u> <u>Steve Goreham</u> <u>Pamela Gorman</u> <u>Laurence Gould</u> <u>Vincent Gray</u> <u>William Gray</u> <u>Kenneth Green</u>	N <u>Marita Noon</u> <u>Mike Noel</u> <u>Joanne Nova</u>	W <u>Paul Waggoner</u> <u>Anthony Watts</u> <u>Gerd-Rainer Weber</u> <u>Todd Wynn</u> <u>Thomas Wismuller</u> Z <u>Miklos Zagoni</u>

<u>Bette Grande</u> <u>Kesten Green</u>		<u>Benjamin Zycher</u>
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The Heartland Institute is a 33-year-old national nonprofit organization headquartered in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Its mission is to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems. For more information, call 312/377-4000.

If you would rather not receive future communications from The Heartland Institute, let us know by clicking [here](#).
The Heartland Institute, 3939 N. Wilke Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004 United States

To: Hale, Michelle[hale.michelle@epa.gov]
Cc: Hupp, Sydney[hupp.sydney@epa.gov]
From: Jim Lakely
Sent: Wed 5/24/2017 2:06:23 PM
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner
[image002.wmz](#)

Thanks. The front of the envelope will be addressed to Sydney.

Best,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000

c: 312-731-9364

Twitter: @HeartlandInst

From: Hale, Michelle [mailto:hale.michelle@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, May 24, 2017 8:23 AM
To: Jim Lakely
Cc: Hupp, Sydney
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner

Best to send it to my or Sydney's attention at :

Sydney Hupp

Office of the Administrator

1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 3000 WJCS

Mail Code 1101A

Washington DC 20460

From: Jim Lakely [<mailto:JLakely@heartland.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 5:50 PM
To: Hale, Michelle <hale.michelle@epa.gov>
Cc: Hupp, Sydney <hupp.sydney@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner

Michelle and Sydney,

Quick question: We want to send a formal letter to Administrator Pruitt. How is the best way to send that letter? By FedEx? US Postal Service? And it is better to address it to one of you than Mr. Pruitt, himself? He obviously gets a ton of mail daily, and we wouldn't want this invitation letter to get lost.

Best,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000
c: 312-731-9364
Twitter: @HeartlandInst

From: Hale, Michelle [<mailto:hale.michelle@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 12:02 PM
To: Jim Lakely
Cc: Hupp, Sydney
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner

Hi, Jim, thank you for your note and invitation. I'm copying our Executive Scheduler, Sydney Hupp, to get this in the hopper.

Appreciate you!

Michelle

From: Jim Lakely [<mailto:JLakely@heartland.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 12:55 PM
To: Hale, Michelle <hale.michelle@epa.gov>
Subject: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner

Michelle,

I hope you are well, and I appreciate all the work you did to see if Administrator Pruitt could speak at The Heartland Institute's climate conference in March. I hope Mr. Pruitt could speak at another Heartland event, which is why I'm sending this email.

Below my signature is an official invitation from Heartland Institute President Joseph Bast for Mr. Pruitt to be the keynote speaker at our annual benefit dinner, tentatively scheduled for September or October, depending on what's best for his schedule. We will be mailing this out in hard-copy form later this week, but I wanted to get the ball rolling immediately.

We certainly hope Administrator Pruitt will say “yes,” and let me know if you have any questions.

Warm regards,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000

c: 312-731-9364

Twitter: @HeartlandInst

May 23, 2017

Environmental Protection Agency

Office of the Administrator, 1101A

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

Thank you for everything you've been doing to advance President Trump's agenda.

I was sorry your schedule didn't allow you to speak at our Twelfth International Conference on Climate Change, held March 23-24 in Washington DC. It was a huge success!

I am writing to ask if you could come to Chicago this fall to speak at The Heartland Institute's 33rd Anniversary Benefit Dinner. The event will be on a Wednesday or Thursday evening in September or October. We can be flexible for whatever date best suits you.

The event likely will be held in the evening at The Cotillion, a fine banquet hall located in a town just down the road from our offices in Arlington Heights, Illinois. The venue is used frequently by elected officials and candidates during political seasons and can hold up to 800 people.

Each year, our anniversary dinners attract nearly 500 people – and with you as our honored keynote speaker, we'd surely sell out the hall with nearly a thousand friends and pro-Trump supporters.

I hope you or your scheduler can give me a call soon with a "yes," and any other questions you might have regarding our event. You can reach me at 312/377-4000, or by email at jbast@heartland.org.

Please know that everyone here at Heartland is pulling for you and the entire Trump administration to be a success. Nothing less than the future of liberty is riding on it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bast". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long, sweeping underline.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Bast

President

**Past Speakers at The Heartland Institute's
Anniversary Benefit Dinners**

Gary Becker, University of Chicago (Nobel Prize in Economics)

Morton Blackwell, The Leadership Institute

Robert Bleiberg, Barron's

Peter Brimelow, Forbes columnist, author

Tony Brown, civil rights leader and author

Christopher Buckley, author

Linda Chavez, former secretary of labor

Ward Connerly, civil rights activist

Edward Crane, president, Cato Institute

Phil Crane, congressman

Donald Devine, Fund for American Studies

Tom DiLorenzo, economist and author

Bruce DuMont, WTTW host

Richard Epstein, University of Chicago Law School

M. Stanton Evans, author

Floyd Flake, congressman

Aaron Freeman, comedian and commentator

Howard Fuller, former superintendent of schools, Milwaukee

John Fund, Wall Street Journal

Stephen Goldsmith, mayor of Indianapolis

Scott Hodge, president, Tax Foundation

Caroline Hoxby, economist, Harvard University

Rob Kolson, comedian

John Lott, economist

Tanya Metaksa, National Rifle Association

Steven Moore, Wall Street Journal

Joseph Morris, Lincoln Legal Foundation

Tom Naughton, comedian

Robert Novak, syndicated columnist

P.J. O'Rourke, writer

Robert Poole, president, Reason Foundation

Paul Craig Roberts, author

Mark Skousen, economist and author

Robert Sirico, president of the Acton Institute

Tim Slagle, comedian

John Stossel, ABC News and 20/20

Dave Thomas, chairman of Wendy's

Grace-Marie Turner, Galen Institute

J.C. Watts, congressman

Scott Walker, Gov. of Wisconsin

Brian Wesbury, economist

Walter Williams, George Mason University

About The Heartland Institute

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and CEO. Dr. Herbert Walberg is chairman of the board.

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Contact information: 3939 North Wilke Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004, phone 312/377-4000, email think@heartland.org.

For more information: The “About” page on our website at www.heartland.org contains endorsements of our work, a history, and video prepared for our 25th anniversary in 2009.

To: Hale, Michelle[hale.michelle@epa.gov]
Cc: Hupp, Sydney[hupp.sydney@epa.gov]
From: Jim Lakely
Sent: Tue 5/23/2017 6:29:16 PM
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner
[image003.wmz](#)

Thanks, Michelle and Sydney. Hope to hear back in the affirmative soon!

Regards,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000

c: 312-731-9364

Twitter: @HeartlandInst

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Office of the Administrator, 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

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President

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To: Sadler, Kelly J. EOP/WHO [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Fri 6/30/2017 6:07:00 PM
Subject: RE: Preview of Poland Visit, Upcoming G-20 Summit

Poland is the country most likely to break ranks with the rest of Europe and exit the Paris accord.

They came close to leaving it before, at COP-19 held in Warsaw in 2013, their science academy has expressed skepticism, but they were brow-beaten by Germany, Britain, and the US into staying in.

Things are much different now, with Germany retreating from its own renewable energy commitments, Britain out of the EU, Trump withdrawing the US from the Paris Accord, and LNG arriving in Poland.

It would be wonderful if Trump could discuss this with President Duda.

Joe

From: Sadler, Kelly J. EOP/WHO [mailto: [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2017 12:57 PM
To: Sadler, Kelly J. EOP/WHO
Subject: Preview of Poland Visit, Upcoming G-20 Summit

Poland Visit and Upcoming G-20 Summit

Topline: The President, in his second-foreign trip, will look to promote American prosperity, protect American interests, and to provide American leadership.

President Trump will travel to Poland on Wednesday where he will:

- Meet with President Duda and speak to 12 Central European, Baltic, and

Western Balkan leaders at the Three Seas Conference

- The President's remarks will focus on infrastructure development and energy security, highlight the first LNG shipments to Poland
- Give a major speech to the Polish people at Krasinski Square, the epicenter of the 1944 Warsaw uprising against Nazi occupation
- Praise Polish courage and its emergence as a European power

President Trump will then travel to Hamburg, Germany for the G20. There, the President has seven objectives:

1. Strengthen American alliances

- America First doesn't mean America alone
- While there will be no NATO meetings on the trip, the President will continue to reiterate both his commitment to the alliance and expectations that all countries will pay their fair share for our collective defense

2. Reassert who we are – to demonstrate what binds us together

- We share Europe's commitment to liberty and rule of law

3. Forge a common understanding of our threats

- We saw President Trump make great progress in Saudi Arabia on denying terrorists safe havens – we'll look to build on that

4. Develop a common approach to Russia

- President Trump wants a more constructive relationship with Russia but he's made clear that we will do what is necessary to confront Russia's destabilizing behavior
- There will be a bilateral meeting between President Trump and Vladimir Putin

5. Expand economic opportunity for Americans

- Make clear to our allies America cannot tolerate unfair trade and economic practices that disadvantage our workers and industries
- The U.S. will seek reciprocal trade relations that are win-win for all countries and their workers

6. Create robust, open and fair energy markets

- The U.S. is committed to the energy security of our allies and partners, and the diversification of energy sources, supplies, and routes

7. Reaffirm America's commitment to the environment

- The U.S. has a strong record of develop clean technologies and protecting the environment. We remain committed to working with world leaders and the private sector on sound environmental policy and on innovative technologies

To: Hale, Michelle[hale.michelle@epa.gov]
Cc: Dickerson, Aaron[dickerson.aaron@epa.gov]
From: Jim Lakely
Sent: Tue 2/28/2017 4:02:28 PM
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Michelle,

Thank you for your quick attention to our request, and we look forward to hearing back.

Regards,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000
c: 312-731-9364
Twitter: @HeartlandInst

From: Hale, Michelle [mailto:hale.michelle@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 9:53 AM
To: Jim Lakely
Cc: Dickerson, Aaron
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Hello, Jim. Thank you for the invitation. We will review the calendar and see if it will be possible for Administrator Pruitt to speak at the conference. I hope to have an answer for you by early next week.

Michelle Hale

Executive Assistant to the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW,

WJCS, Suite 3000

Washington, D.C. 20460

(202) 564-1430

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From: Jim Lakely [<mailto:JLakely@heartland.org>]

Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 6:05 PM

To: Hale, Michelle <hale.michelle@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Michelle,

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Can you please convey this request to the Mr. Pruitt, along with my sincere congratulations and best wishes? And please let me know if there is anything I can do to increase the odds of a favorable decision!

Regards,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000

c: 312-731-9364

Twitter: @HeartlandInst

To: JLakely@heartland.org[JLakely@heartland.org]
Cc: Hale, Michelle[hale.michelle@epa.gov]
From: Hupp, Sydney
Sent: Wed 3/15/2017 12:04:26 PM
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Good morning Jim,

Hope this email finds you well! Michelle let me know that you reached back out inquiring about other times for the Administrator to speak. He will actually be out of town those days and unable to make the other two times you offered. I am so sorry! We wish we could participate and hopefully we are able to in the future. I appreciate your willingness to be flexible with us though! Please don't hesitate to reach out to us again.

Best,

Sydney

From: Hale, Michelle
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 2:06 PM
To: Hupp, Sydney <hupp.sydney@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

From: Jim Lakely [<mailto:JLakely@heartland.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 1:55 PM
To: Hale, Michelle <hale.michelle@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Michelle,

Before I give up all hope ... is there another time he could deliver an address? How about these times?

Thursday, March 23: 7:10 pm - 7:40 pm?

Friday, March 24: 8 am – 8:30 am?

Just let me know so I can say I exhausted all possibilities.

Best,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000
c: 312-731-9364
Twitter: @HeartlandInst

From: Hale, Michelle [<mailto:hale.michelle@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:59 AM
To: Jim Lakely
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Jim,

I apologize for the delays in getting you an answer. Unfortunately, the Administrator will not be able to do the speech on March 23. I'm very sorry!

Michelle

From: Jim Lakely [<mailto:JLakely@heartland.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 11:09 AM

To: Hale, Michelle <hale.michelle@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Michelle,

I understand the blizzard was a bit of a dud in DC. *Halleluiah!* I'm glad you guys were spared the worst of the predictions.

Any word yet on Mr. Pruitt being able to speak at Heartland's climate conference the morning of March 23?

Best,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000

c: 312-731-9364

Twitter: @HeartlandInst

From: Hale, Michelle [<mailto:hale.michelle@epa.gov>]

Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 4:03 PM

To: Jim Lakely

Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Have a great evening!

From: Jim Lakely [<mailto:JLakely@heartland.org>]
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2017 5:01 PM
To: Hale, Michelle <hale.michelle@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Thanks for the update, Michelle. My fingers are still crossed ... even if it does make it more difficult to type.

Best,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
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From: Hale, Michelle [<mailto:hale.michelle@epa.gov>]
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 3:52 PM
To: Jim Lakely
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Hi, Jim, we are still in the midst of lining out the Administrator's schedule for the remainder of March. Hopefully, we will have an answer for you soon.

Michelle

From: Jim Lakely [<mailto:JLakely@heartland.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 5:09 PM
To: Hale, Michelle <hale.michelle@epa.gov>
Cc: Dickerson, Aaron <dickerson.aaron@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Michelle,

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Right now, I'm holding the 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. slot open for him. If it helps push toward a "yes," the secretary will have the opportunity to meet **Apollo 7 Astronaut Walter Cunningham**, an old friend and Heartland supporter who will be accepting an award from one of our co-sponsors immediately after that open speaking slot.

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Regards,

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Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000

c: 312-731-9364
Twitter: @HeartlandInst

To: Hale, Michelle[hale.michelle@epa.gov]
From: Jim Lakely
Sent: Tue 3/14/2017 5:15:48 PM
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Bummer, Michelle. Thanks so much for working to make it happen.

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
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Jim Lakely
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Twitter: @HeartlandInst

To: Hale, Michelle[hale.michelle@epa.gov]
Cc: Hupp, Sydney[hupp.sydney@epa.gov]
From: Jim Lakely
Sent: Tue 5/23/2017 9:49:40 PM
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner
[image003.wmz](#)

Michelle and Sydney,

Quick question: We want to send a formal letter to Administrator Pruitt. How is the best way to send that letter? By FedEx? US Postal Service? And it is better to address it to one of you than Mr. Pruitt, himself? He obviously gets a ton of mail daily, and we wouldn't want this invitation letter to get lost.

Best,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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From: Hale, Michelle [mailto:hale.michelle@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 12:02 PM
To: Jim Lakely
Cc: Hupp, Sydney
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner

Hi, Jim, thank you for your note and invitation. I'm copying our Executive Scheduler, Sydney Hupp, to get this in the hopper.

Appreciate you!

Michelle

From: Jim Lakely [<mailto:JLakely@heartland.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 12:55 PM
To: Hale, Michelle <hale.michelle@epa.gov>
Subject: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner

Michelle,

I hope you are well, and I appreciate all the work you did to see if Administrator Pruitt could speak at The Heartland Institute's climate conference in March. I hope Mr. Pruitt could speak at another Heartland event, which is why I'm sending this email.

Below my signature is an official invitation from Heartland Institute President Joseph Bast for Mr. Pruitt to be the keynote speaker at our annual benefit dinner, tentatively scheduled for September or October, depending on what's best for his schedule. We will be mailing this out in hard-copy form later this week, but I wanted to get the ball rolling immediately.

We certainly hope Administrator Pruitt will say "yes," and let me know if you have any questions.

Warm regards,

Jim Lakely

Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000

c: 312-731-9364

Twitter: @HeartlandInst

May 23, 2017

Environmental Protection Agency

Office of the Administrator, 1101A

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

Thank you for everything you've been doing to advance President Trump's agenda.

I was sorry your schedule didn't allow you to speak at our Twelfth International Conference on Climate Change, held March 23-24 in Washington DC. It was a huge success!

I am writing to ask if you could come to Chicago this fall to speak at The Heartland Institute's 33rd Anniversary Benefit Dinner. The event will be on a Wednesday or Thursday evening in September or October. We can be flexible for whatever date best suits you.

The event likely will be held in the evening at The Cotillion, a fine banquet hall located in a town just down the road from our offices in Arlington Heights, Illinois. The venue is used frequently by elected officials and candidates during political seasons and can hold up to 800 people.

Each year, our anniversary dinners attract nearly 500 people – and with you as our honored keynote speaker, we'd surely sell out the hall with nearly a thousand friends and pro-Trump supporters.

I hope you or your scheduler can give me a call soon with a “yes,” and any other questions you might have regarding our event. You can reach me at 312/377-4000, or by email at jbast@heartland.org.

Please know that everyone here at Heartland is pulling for you and the entire Trump administration to be a success. Nothing less than the future of liberty is riding on it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bast". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Bast

President

Past Speakers at The Heartland Institute's Anniversary Benefit Dinners

Gary Becker, University of Chicago (Nobel Prize in Economics)

Morton Blackwell, The Leadership Institute

Robert Bleiberg, Barron's

Peter Brimelow, Forbes columnist, author

Tony Brown, civil rights leader and author

Christopher Buckley, author

Linda Chavez, former secretary of labor

Ward Connerly, civil rights activist

Edward Crane, president, Cato Institute

Phil Crane, congressman

Donald Devine, Fund for American Studies

Tom DiLorenzo, economist and author

Bruce DuMont, WTTW host

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To: Hale, Michelle[hale.michelle@epa.gov]
From: Jim Lakely
Sent: Tue 5/23/2017 4:55:06 PM
Subject: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner
[image001.wmz](#)

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Warm regards,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000
c: 312-731-9364
Twitter: @HeartlandInst

May 23, 2017

Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator, 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

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Each year, our anniversary dinners attract nearly 500 people – and with you as our honored keynote speaker, we'd surely sell out the hall with nearly a thousand friends and pro-Trump supporters.

I hope you or your scheduler can give me a call soon with a “yes,” and any other questions you might have regarding our event. You can reach me at 312/377-4000, or by email at jbast@heartland.org.

Please know that everyone here at Heartland is pulling for you and the entire Trump administration to be a success. Nothing less than the future of liberty is riding on it.

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Joseph L. Bast

President

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Morton Blackwell, The Leadership Institute

Robert Bleiberg, Barron's

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To: Jim Lakely[JLakely@heartland.org]
Cc: Hupp, Sydney[hupp.sydney@epa.gov]
From: Hale, Michelle
Sent: Wed 5/24/2017 1:22:32 PM
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner

Best to send it to my or Sydney's attention at :

Sydney Hupp

Office of the Administrator

1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 3000 WJCS

Mail Code 1101A

Washington DC 20460

From: Jim Lakely [mailto:JLakely@heartland.org]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 5:50 PM
To: Hale, Michelle <hale.michelle@epa.gov>
Cc: Hupp, Sydney <hupp.sydney@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner

Michelle and Sydney,

Quick question: We want to send a formal letter to Administrator Pruitt. How is the best way to send that letter? By FedEx? US Postal Service? And it is better to address it to one of you than Mr. Pruitt, himself? He obviously gets a ton of mail daily, and we wouldn't want this invitation letter to get lost.

Best,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000
c: 312-731-9364
Twitter: @HeartlandInst

From: Hale, Michelle [<mailto:hale.michelle@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 12:02 PM
To: Jim Lakely
Cc: Hupp, Sydney
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner

Hi, Jim, thank you for your note and invitation. I'm copying our Executive Scheduler, Sydney Hupp, to get this in the hopper.

Appreciate you!

Michelle

From: Jim Lakely [<mailto:JLakely@heartland.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2017 12:55 PM
To: Hale, Michelle <hale.michelle@epa.gov>
Subject: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner

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We certainly hope Administrator Pruitt will say "yes," and let me know if you have any questions.

Warm regards,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
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o: 312.377.4000
c: 312-731-9364
Twitter: @HeartlandInst

May 23, 2017

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Office of the Administrator, 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

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I am writing to ask if you could come to Chicago this fall to speak at The Heartland Institute's 33rd Anniversary Benefit Dinner. The event will be on a Wednesday or Thursday evening in September or October. We can be flexible for whatever date best suits you.

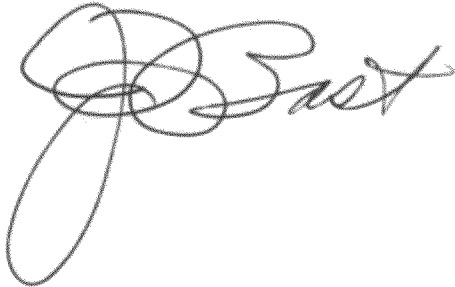
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I hope you or your scheduler can give me a call soon with a "yes," and any other questions you might have regarding our event. You can reach me at 312/377-4000, or by email at

jbast@heartland.org.

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Sincerely,

Joseph L. Bast

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Cc: Hupp, Sydney[hupp.sydney@epa.gov]
From: Hale, Michelle
Sent: Tue 5/23/2017 5:02:03 PM
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak in September or October at Heartland Institute Benefit Dinner

Hi, Jim, thank you for your note and invitation. I'm copying our Executive Scheduler, Sydney Hupp, to get this in the hopper.

Appreciate you!

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To: Joseph Bast[JBast@heartland.org]
From: Hale, Michelle
Sent: Thur 5/18/2017 2:18:40 PM
Subject: RE: H. Sterling Burnett in the Detroit News: Escaping the Paris Climate Agreement

Thank you.

From: Joseph Bast [mailto:JBast@heartland.org]
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2017 9:34 AM
Subject: H. Sterling Burnett in the Detroit News: Escaping the Paris Climate Agreement

FYI.

<http://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2017/05/18/paris-climate/101815198/>

Billy Aouste

Media Specialist

The Heartland Institute

3939 North Wilke Road

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Detroit News
5/18/17

Escaping the Paris Climate Agreement

By: H. Sterling Burnett, the Heartland Institute

As a candidate for president, Donald Trump said he would withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement and called it a bad deal for America. In an April speech in Harrisburg, Penn., Trump reiterated this claim, saying the Paris climate agreement in its current form hurts America. Despite his continued opposition, however, it remains unclear whether a withdrawal is in the nation's future.

It's time for this administration to keep its promise, by getting the U.S. out of this flawed, costly agreement.

Some in Trump's team have reportedly said if the United States' commitments are restructured there might be a path to stay in the Paris climate agreement. While there may be a better deal to be had — after all, the Obama administration could hardly have negotiated a worse deal for Americans — there is no deal that would be good for the country. Even Trump can't put lipstick on this very ugly pig.

While our economic competitors, such as China and India, do not have to limit their fossil-fuel use under the agreement, the U.S. is required to make steep cuts, which are estimated to cost our economy trillions of dollars over the life of the agreement without providing any appreciable environmental benefits. Additionally, a deal isn't possible without the U.S. paying into the political slush fund called the Green Climate Fund, which Trump promised to halt payments to. What is gained by staying in? Nothing.

The question is not whether Trump should keep his word and withdraw from the Paris agreement; it's simply a matter of choosing the best way to do so. There are three options.

The first way to cancel America's participation in the Paris climate agreement — and the one that most directly satisfies Trump's campaign commitment — is simply to withdraw the United States' signature entirely. Under the Paris agreement, any country can withdraw from the agreement by giving written notice of a decision to do so to the U.N. secretary general. Unfortunately, under the terms of the agreement, Trump can't give such notice until the agreement has been in place for three years, which means the earliest withdrawal date is Oct. 5, 2019.

Making matters worse, the withdrawal does not become effective until one year after the written

notice is delivered. This means even if Trump determines to withdraw from the Paris agreement today, the country will remain stuck with its terms for a minimum of almost four years, and while America remains a party to the agreement, it is obligated to keep its commitments. Because the four-year withdrawal period will not run out until after Trump's first term is over, should he decide not to run for president again or should he run for re-election and lose, the next president could simply recommit the United States to the agreement with a simple signature.

The second way to scotch America's commitments under the Paris climate agreement would be for Trump to submit it to the Senate for formal approval as a treaty. This is what Obama should have done in the first place. To become a binding treaty, the Senate would have to approve the Paris climate agreement by a two-thirds vote. If the agreement loses the treaty vote — and it likely would in a full vote of the Senate — the deal is canceled.

However, nothing requires the Senate to hold an up-or-down vote on the Paris climate agreement if Trump submits it to them. Using the Senate filibuster rules, Senate Democrats could block the treaty from ever coming up for a vote. Such a move is likely, since the vast majority of Democrats support the Paris agreement. Under this scenario, the treaty would remain pending, leaving a future Senate to decide its fate.

The easiest way for Trump to end U.S. participation in Paris and all international climate agreements would be for him to remove the country's signature from the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), signed by President George H.W. Bush in 1992. Article 25 of the UNFCCC allows any state party to the convention to withdraw, without further obligation, upon giving one year's notice. Withdrawing from UNFCCC would cancel the United States' obligations to all other United Nations-brokered climate agreements made subsequent to UNFCCC, because they are all built on it.

This would be the best and easiest way to get out of the Paris climate agreement, and it would help to prevent future burdensome climate agreements.

Mr. President, whichever path you choose, please keep your promise and withdraw the United States from the Paris agreement, placing it firmly in the dustbin of history — where it belongs.

H. Sterling Burnett, Ph.D., is a research fellow on energy and the environment at the Heartland

Institute.

To: Jim Lakely[JLakely@heartland.org]
From: Hale, Michelle
Sent: Thur 3/9/2017 10:02:34 PM
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Have a great evening!

From: Jim Lakely [mailto:JLakely@heartland.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 9, 2017 5:01 PM
To: Hale, Michelle <hale.michelle@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Thanks for the update, Michelle. My fingers are still crossed ... even if it does make it more difficult to type.

Best,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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c: 312-731-9364
Twitter: @HeartlandInst

From: Hale, Michelle [mailto:hale.michelle@epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 09, 2017 3:52 PM
To: Jim Lakely
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Hi, Jim, we are still in the midst of lining out the Administrator's schedule for the remainder of March. Hopefully, we will have an answer for you soon.

Michelle

From: Jim Lakely [<mailto:JLakely@heartland.org>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 7, 2017 5:09 PM
To: Hale, Michelle <hale.michelle@epa.gov>
Cc: Dickerson, Aaron <dickerson.aaron@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Michelle,

Just following up, and I hope you will have good news soon. I hate to press, but we're putting the official program together and it needs to go to the printer in the next couple of days. We'd love to put Secretary Pruitt's name in for the opening breakfast plenary session – or any of the plenary sessions that will fit in his schedule.

Right now, I'm holding the 8:15 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. slot open for him. If it helps push toward a "yes," the secretary will have the opportunity to meet **Apollo 7 Astronaut Walter Cunningham**, an old friend and Heartland supporter who will be accepting an award from one of our co-sponsors immediately after that open speaking slot.

Warm regards,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000
c: 312-731-9364

Twitter: @HeartlandInst

From: Hale, Michelle [<mailto:hale.michelle@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 9:53 AM
To: Jim Lakely
Cc: Dickerson, Aaron
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Hello, Jim. Thank you for the invitation. We will review the calendar and see if it will be possible for Administrator Pruitt to speak at the conference. I hope to have an answer for you by early next week.

Michelle Hale

Executive Assistant to the Administrator

Environmental Protection Agency

1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW,

WJCS, Suite 3000

Washington, D.C. 20460

(202) 564-1430

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From: Jim Lakely [<mailto:JLakely@heartland.org>]
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 6:05 PM
To: Hale, Michelle <hale.michelle@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Request to Scott Pruitt to speak on March 23 or 24 in Washington DC

Michelle,

I got your name and contact information from Myron Ebell, a long-time friend of The Heartland Institute and EPA transition leader – a very great service to his country and sensible climate and energy policy in the coming years.

I am writing to ask if Administrator Pruitt would consider being a keynote speaker The Heartland Institute's [12th International Conference on Climate Change](#), which is taking place March 23-24, 2017, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1000 H. Street NW, Washington DC. We would be honored if he could expand on his excellent remarks at CPAC in front of an audience of some 250 climate scientists, economists, energy policy experts, think tank leaders, and the general public. Myron, by the way, is among those speaking, and you can review the whole schedule [here](#).

I believe Mr. Pruitt is familiar with The Heartland Institute and our work on climate change from his time in public service in Oklahoma. Heartland is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and nonpartisan research and education organization. It is not affiliated with any other think tank, foundation, corporation, or political organization. It is “the world’s most prominent think tank supporting skepticism of man-made climate change” (according to *The Economist*). We have published more books, policy studies, and commentaries on the topic than any other free-market think tank in the world (according to the scientific journal *Global Environmental Change*). We are ranked in the top ten free-market think tanks in the world (according to TheBestSchools.org). More information is available on our website at <http://heartland.org/>.

The theme of the conference is simple: Climate change does not require that we reduce

energy consumption or replace fossil fuels with alternative energies. I am confident that this is Mr. Pruitt's view on the subject. Leading experts will discuss the science and economics of issue, addressing such topics as the economic benefits of fossil fuels, pros and cons of alternative fuels, "social cost of carbon," cost of regulations, and the outline of a plan to "reset" U.S. climate policy.

The conference will feature 40 speakers, including members of Congress, other officials in the Trump administration (invited but not yet confirmed), and the following distinguished climate experts (all confirmed): **Scott Armstrong, Ph.D.** (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), **Susan Crockford, Ph.D.** (University of Victoria, Canada), **Kevin Dayaratna, Ph.D.** (The Heritage Foundation), **Don Easterbrook, Ph.D.** (Western Washington University (Emeritus)), **Myron Ebell,** (Competitive Enterprise Institute), **James Enstrom, Ph.D.** (University of California – Los Angeles), **Indur Goklany, Ph.D.** (Department of the Interior), **Ross McKittrick, Ph.D.** (University of Guelph), **Robert Mendelsohn, Ph.D.** (Yale University), **Patrick Michaels, Ph.D.** (Cato Institute), **Steve Milloy, MHS, JD** (Junkscience.com), **S. Fred Singer, Ph.D.** (University of Virginia (Emeritus)), **Willie Soon, Ph.D.** (Harvard-Smithsonian Center on Solar Physics), **Daniel Sutter, Ph.D.** (Troy University), **Timothy Terrell, Ph.D.** (Wofford College, SC), and **Benjamin Zycher, Ph.D.** (American Enterprise Institute).

We plan to limit attendance to 200 ticket buyers (\$179 for general admission to the two-day event), speakers, and Congressional staff who attend for free. Several other free-market think tanks, including The Heritage Foundation, have agreed to cosponsor this event.

We ask that Mr. Pruitt consider speaking at any of the plenary sessions – breakfast, lunch, or dinner on Thursday, March 23, or breakfast or lunch on Friday, March 24.

Can you please convey this request to the Mr. Pruitt, along with my sincere congratulations and best wishes? And please let me know if there is anything I can do to increase the odds of a favorable decision!

Regards,

Jim Lakely
Director of Communications
The Heartland Institute
3939 North Wilke Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

o: 312.377.4000

c: 312-731-9364

Twitter: @HeartlandInst

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 8/21/2017 11:42:57 PM
Subject: Wow Again: Trump disbands National Climate Assessment panel

This is even better than hoped for.

Joe

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/08/20/the-trump-administration-just-disbanded-a-federal-advisory-committee-on-climate-change/?utm_term=.5c0daa1fba41

The Trump administration just disbanded a federal advisory committee on climate change

By Juliet Eilperin August 20

The Trump administration has decided to disband the federal advisory panel for the National Climate Assessment, a group aimed at helping policymakers and private-sector officials incorporate the government's climate analysis into long-term planning.

The charter for the 15-person Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment — which includes academics as well as local officials and corporate representatives — expires Sunday. On Friday, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's acting administrator, Ben Friedman, informed the committee's chair that the agency would not renew the panel.

The National Climate Assessment is supposed to be issued every four years but has come out only three times since passage of the 1990 law calling for such analysis. The next one, due for release in 2018, already has become a contentious issue for the Trump administration.

The committee was established to help translate findings from the National Climate Assessment into concrete guidance for both public and private-sector officials. Its members have been writing a report to inform federal officials on the data sets and approaches that would best be included, and chair Richard Moss said in an interview Saturday that ending the group's work was shortsighted.

"It doesn't seem to be the best course of action," said Moss, an adjunct professor in the University of Maryland's Department of Geographical Sciences, and he warned of consequences for the decisions that state and local authorities must make on a range of issues from building road projects to maintaining adequate hydropower supplies. "We're going to be running huge risks here and possibly end up hurting the next generation's economic prospects."

But NOAA communications director Julie Roberts said in an email Saturday that "this action does not impact the completion of the Fourth National Climate Assessment, which remains a key priority."

While many state and local officials have pressed the federal government for more concrete guidance on how to factor climate change into future infrastructure, President Trump has moved in the opposite direction.

Last week, the president signed an executive order on infrastructure that included language overturning a federal requirement that projects built in coastal floodplains and receiving federal aid take projected sea-level rise into account. Some groups, such as the National Association of Home Builders, hailed the reversal of that standard from the Obama administration on the grounds that stricter flood requirements would raise the cost of development and "could make many projects infeasible."

Seattle Mayor Ed Murray (D) said in an interview Saturday that the move to dissolve the climate advisory committee represents "an example of the president not leading, and the president stepping away from reality." An official from Seattle Public Utilities has been serving on the panel; with its disbanding, Murray said it would now be "more difficult" for cities to participate in the climate assessment. On climate change, Trump "has left us all individually to figure it out."

Richard Wright, the past chair of the American Society of Civil Engineers' Committee on Adaptation to a Changing Climate, has been working with the federal advisory panel to convey the importance of detailed climate projections in next year's assessment. The society establishes guidelines that form the basis of building codes across the country, and these are based on a historical record that may no longer be an accurate predictor of future weather extremes.

"We need to work on updating our standards with good estimates on what future weather and climate extremes will be," Wright said Saturday. "I think it's going to be a serious handicap for us that the advisory committee is not functional."

The committee was established in 2015, but its members were not appointed until last summer. They convened their first meeting in the fall. Moss said members of the group intend to keep working on their report, which is due out next spring, even though it now will lack the official imprimatur of the federal government. "It won't have the same weight as if we were issuing it as a federal advisory committee," he said.

Other Trump Cabinet officials have either altered the makeup of outside advisory boards or suspended these panels in recent months, though they have not abolished the groups outright. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt decided to replace dozens of members on one of the agency's key scientific review boards, while Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "reviewing the charter and charge" of more than 200 advisory boards for his department.

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Tue 6/6/2017 1:27:34 PM
Subject: Richard Tol: "The Private Benefit of Carbon and its Social Cost"

H/T David Hagen and Marc Morano.

I haven't had a chance to read this yet, but it appears to be an attempt to resolve the confusion between the "benefits of fossil fuels" and the "social cost of carbon." The former are clearly huge, as Gary Bezdek et al. repeatedly demonstrate, while the latter by definition is only that cost borne by "society," or those other than direct users, and net of social benefits.

Joe

The Private Benefit of Carbon and its Social Cost

Abstract: The private benefit of carbon is the value, at the margin, of the energy services provided by the use of fossil fuels. It is the weighted average of the price of energy times the carbon dioxide emission coefficient, with energy used as weights. The private benefits is here estimated, for the first time, at \$411/tCO₂. The private benefit is lowest for coal use in industry and highest for residential electricity; it is lowest in Kazakhstan and highest in Norway. The private benefit of carbon is much higher than the social cost of carbon.

". . . The private benefit of carbon is large and, in most cases, much larger than the social cost of carbon. But while the social cost of carbon is tied to carbon dioxide emissions and their impact on the climate, the private benefit of carbon is not tied to fossil fuels. The private benefits of carbon are, really, the benefits of abundant and reliable energy – or rather, the benefits of the services provided by energy, such as warm homes, cooked food, travel and transport, information and communication, and so on. An increasing share of these benefits can be had without incurring carbon dioxide emissions, or by paying a falling premium to avoid such emissions."

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=wps-07-2017.pdf&site=24>
<http://bit.ly/2qXx2qN>

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 9:47:31 PM
Subject: RE: EPA Scientific Integrity Stakeholder Meeting

Patrick Michaels, Ph.D., Cato Institute, pmichaels@cato.org

Myron Ebell, Competitive Enterprise Institute, mebell@cei.org

Kevin Dayaratna, Ph.D., Heritage Foundation, kevin.Dayaratna@heritage.org

Ben Zycher, Ph.D., AEI, Benjamin.Zycher@AEI.org

Tom Pyle, IER, tpyle@energydc.org

Steve Milloy, Junkscience.org, milloy@me.com

Joe

From: Konkus, John [mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 4:41 PM
To: Joseph Bast
Subject: Re: EPA Scientific Integrity Stakeholder Meeting

Send me their I emails. They each represent a unique group so they should each get an invite.
Thank you.

John Konkus

Deputy Associate Administrator

Office of Public Affairs

Environmental Protection Agency

Cell: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

On Jun 5, 2017, at 5:25 PM, Joseph Bast <JBast@heartland.org> wrote:

Thanks!

One more question, can you or have you arranged for invitations to out to the following individuals? I could supply email addresses if you need them. I could invite them myself, but it would be nice if they were not “counted” against the number of others I end up bringing with me.

Patrick Michaels, Ph.D., Cato Institute

Myron Ebell, CEI

Kevin Dayaratna, Ph.D., Heritage Foundation

Ben Zycher, Ph.D., AEI

Tom Pyle, IER

Steve Milloy, Junkscience.org

Joe

From: Konkus, John [<mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov>]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 4:18 PM
To: Joseph Bast
Subject: RE: EPA Scientific Integrity Stakeholder Meeting

I have confirmed that tomorrow’s meeting is an internal meeting. The meeting on the 14th is the public meeting.

Also, an organization is not limited to only one attendee. You should be able to bring others.

From: Joseph Bast [<mailto:JBast@heartland.org>]
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2017 5:00 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: EPA Scientific Integrity Stakeholder Meeting

John,

This invitation doesn't say anything about my being able to invite guests. Can you please confirm that, before I start to invite others, or do you recommend I direct my inquiry to Martha Otto or Francesca Grifo?

Also, no mention of a meeting tomorrow, which I could call in for, and/or have some of Heartland's Washington DC staff attend in person.

Joe

From: Otto, Martha [<mailto:Otto.Martha@epa.gov>] **On Behalf Of** Scientific Integrity
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 3:42 PM
Subject: EPA Scientific Integrity Stakeholder Meeting

Greetings,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Scientific Integrity Annual Stakeholder Meeting. At this year's meeting, as the EPA Scientific Integrity Official, I will answer your questions, share current scientific integrity initiatives, and discuss future plans for scientific integrity at EPA. Please RSVP to scientific_integrity@epa.gov as soon as possible. Let us know if you plan to attend in person, by phone, or by AdobeConnect. Details are as follows:

EPA Scientific Integrity Annual Stakeholder Meeting

Wednesday, June 14th, 2017

3:00-5:00 PM

Ronald Reagan Building Mezzanine, Room 301 A-B

RSVP Required: scientific_integrity@epa.gov

Audioconference No: 1-866-299-3188 code: 202-564-6811

AdobeConnect Link: <http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/stakeholdermeeting/>

**To access this meeting, attendees must check in with security using a valid government-issued photo ID. All attendees should RSVP to facilitate their admittance to the building.*

I hope that you will join me to learn more about how we are ensuring a culture of scientific integrity at EPA.

Sincerely,

Francesca T. Grifo, Ph. D.

Scientific Integrity Official

US EPA Office of the Science Advisor

202-564-1687

<http://www.epa.gov/osa/basic-information-about-scientific-integrity>

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 9:41:42 PM
Subject: Response to "Trump misrepresented MIT climate research, officials say"

Willie Soon sent around this link...

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4564392/Trump-misunderstood-MIT-climate-research-university-officials-say.html>

...to an article citing MIT economists claiming that President Trump, in his Rose Garden speech last week, misrepresented their estimate of the impact of the Paris accord on global temperatures. But according to Kevin Dayaratna at Heritage, kevin.Dayaratna@heritage.org,

I've adapted the Model for the Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Induced Climate Change here at Heritage. if you assume an overly-sensitive climate (around 3 degrees C) and drop US CO₂ emissions to zero, you will see a negligible impact on global temperatures. Pat and Chip have developed a nice calculator out of the model <https://www.cato.org/blog/current-wisdom-we-calculate-you-decide-handy-dandy-carbon-tax-temperature-savings-calculatoronline> so you can see this, and I've verified their results using the model myself.

Eliminating from the industrialized world will also have a negligible impact:

2050: 0.104°C

2100: 0.278°C

The model also provides insight on sea level rise, and again these changes are quite negligible.

Now in terms of China and India, Pat had some interesting thoughts when the two of us testified on the Hill earlier this year

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXxhswbkoM0&feature=youtu.be>

So the question is – What assumptions are these other people making about CO2 reductions that are made worldwide? My instinct is, almost surely, they are either too rosy or are HEAVILY over-estimating the climate sensitivity.

Kevin

And Ben Zycher at AEI, Benjamin.Zycher@AEI.org, agrees with Kevin, saying “Bjorn Lomborg's peer-reviewed paper on this is [here](#); 0.17 degrees by 2100. I have run the NCAR model and I get pretty much the same answer even with a climate sensitivity assumption of 4.5 degrees.”

And this dust up reminded me of a previous one, in 2009, when MIT researchers estimated the cost of cap-and-trade would be \$3,100 per household, but when Republicans began to cite it, claimed they really meant to say it was only \$800. Subsequent research by John McCormack at The Weekly Standard revealed the real cost of cap-and-trade, using their methodology, was \$3,900. See [here](#).

Maybe something is wrong with MIT, and not with President Trump? Could that be?

Joe

Joseph Bast

President

The Heartland Institute

3939 N. Wilke Road

Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Phone 312/377-4000

Email jbast@heartland.org

Web site <http://www.heartland.org>

Support Heartland today!

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From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Thur 7/6/2017 6:13:10 PM
Subject: Part II of Response to MIT President: Paris Exit Scientifically Sound - Master Resource

FYI.

<https://www.masterresource.org/climate-science/mit-president-exit-paris-ii/>

Joe

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 9:24:40 PM
Subject: RE: EPA Scientific Integrity Stakeholder Meeting

Thanks!

One more question, can you or have you arranged for invitations to out to the following individuals? I could supply email addresses if you need them. I could invite them myself, but it would be nice if they were not “counted” against the number of others I end up bringing with me.

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Myron Ebell, CEI

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Ben Zycher, Ph.D., AEI

Tom Pyle, IER

Steve Milloy, Junkscience.org

Joe

From: Konkus, John [mailto:konkus.john@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 4:18 PM
To: Joseph Bast
Subject: RE: EPA Scientific Integrity Stakeholder Meeting

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From: Joseph Bast [<mailto:JBast@heartland.org>]
Sent: Monday, June 5, 2017 5:00 PM
To: Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA Scientific Integrity Stakeholder Meeting

John,

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Also, no mention of a meeting tomorrow, which I could call in for, and/or have some of Heartland's Washington DC staff attend in person.

Joe

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Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 3:42 PM
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Wednesday, June 14th, 2017

3:00-5:00 PM

Ronald Reagan Building Mezzanine, Room 301 A-B

RSVP Required: scientific_integrity@epa.gov

Audioconference No: **code:**

AdobeConnect Link: <http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/stakeholdermeeting/>

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I hope that you will join me to learn more about how we are ensuring a culture of scientific integrity at EPA.

Sincerely,

Francesca T. Grifo, Ph. D.

Scientific Integrity Official

US EPA Office of the Science Advisor

202-564-1687

<http://www.epa.gov/osa/basic-information-about-scientific-integrity>

To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 8:59:38 PM
Subject: FW: EPA Scientific Integrity Stakeholder Meeting

John,

This invitation doesn't say anything about my being able to invite guests. Can you please confirm that, before I start to invite others, or do you recommend I direct my inquiry to Martha Otto or Francesca Grifo?

Also, no mention of a meeting tomorrow, which I could call in for, and/or have some of Heartland's Washington DC staff attend in person.

Joe

From: Otto, Martha [mailto:Otto.Martha@epa.gov] **On Behalf Of** Scientific Integrity
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2017 3:42 PM
Subject: EPA Scientific Integrity Stakeholder Meeting

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Wednesday, June 14th, 2017

3:00-5:00 PM

Ronald Reagan Building Mezzanine, Room 301 A-B

RSVP Required: scientific_integrity@epa.gov

Audioconference No: Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy **code:** Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

AdobeConnect Link: **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

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Sincerely,

Francesca T. Grifo, Ph. D.

Scientific Integrity Official

US EPA Office of the Science Advisor

202-564-1687

<http://www.epa.gov/osa/basic-information-about-scientific-integrity>

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Wed 7/26/2017 1:27:12 PM
Subject: David Schnare on why he left EPA, Red Team, etc.

"The following article was first published in Inside EPA on July 25, 2017 and is reprinted here with permission of the author."

Guest Perspective

Schnare, Former Transition Official, On His Departure, EPA Climate Science Review

July 25, 2017

***Editor's Note:** David Schnare, the former EPA transition official who wrote this article, left the agency earlier this year over concerns about infighting among administration appointees and Administrator Scott Pruitt's alleged lack of engagement. In it, his first since departing the agency, he discusses his reasons for leaving and his views on EPA's upcoming climate science review. The views expressed here are his.*

It is a high honor to be asked to serve on a presidential transition team -- an even higher one to be asked to go back into an agency into a major role. The Presidential Personnel Office, with the full support of Transition Team Leader and Senior White House Advisor, Don Benton, asked me to act as, and then become permanently appointed as the Assistant Deputy Administrator, a position Administrator Pruitt described as the Chief Operating Officer for the Agency. A few days before the White House officially made that assignment, I resigned. As a 34 year-veteran of EPA, a PhD environmental scientist and attorney who retired from the Agency in 2011, President Trump's team asked me to go into the agency in a leadership role implementing the EPA transition plan. Based on discussions with the entire EPA transition team, I had drafted approximately 80% of the agency transition plan. Why resign and why explain why?

My commitment to the President and his agenda is ongoing, despite my resignation. Over 20 news organizations have asked me to spell out why I left, and previously I have not as I saw no value to President Trump in doing so. However, telling this brief tale deflates attention on my resignation and allows attention to go to an important issue that demands attention from within and outside the Agency -- specifically, how to address the highly controversial issue of climate and the human influence on climate.

In simple terms, Mr. Pruitt and I simply never meshed.

Every agency or departmental transition team confronted two challenges: rapid implementation

of the President's agenda and team-building with the career managers. The EPA transition team faced extreme antagonism by some lower level employees within the Agency and open hostility from the initial Pruitt appointments. My job was to form a working bridge between the Pruitt team and the career professionals while ensuring the President's transition plan moved forward. In the final call, I was unable achieve this mission.

Bill Ruckelshaus, the Agency's first and fifth Administrator, recently discussed why senior government officials resign, something he did twice. He explained that it comes down to a question of fundamental principles. Where the appointee is being forced to compromise his core principles, he has no choice but to resign. In my case, Mr. Pruitt and I had basic irreconcilable differences in management approach and professional ethics.

Because, in the opening weeks of his tenure, Mr. Pruitt chose not to engage closely with the senior career managers, my function was to bring time- and policy-sensitive issues to his attention and brief him on those issues. Each time, I suggested he meet with the appropriate career managers so as to ensure he had detailed answers to any questions he might have. He rarely did so, relying instead on the extremely short briefs I provided at his morning staff meetings.

This problem came to a head at a meeting in which I gave him notice that a delegated EPA authority was going to be used by a career manager on a sensitive issue, an action required by law. I advised him on the Agency's options and he rejected them all. Mr. Pruitt then ordered a different course of action, one I firmly believe is not permitted under law. He left it to me or his chief of staff to direct the career staff to implement the action. In my view, this violated our oaths of office and placed the career staff in an untenable position -- one from which I could not extract them, whether I stayed or resigned. The next week I was ordered to no longer meet with Mr. Pruitt on policy issues, having already been directed to not participate in either personnel or budget matters. Thus, I could not do the job the President asked me to do. Under those conditions, there was but one choice and I made it.

Revisiting Climate Science

In my commitment to President Trump's agenda, I have identified a structural problem that does not seem to be understood by EPA appointees or White House policy staff. I came to *Inside EPA* to highlight this problem as it is the loudest megaphone into the Agency and within the environmental policy community. It needs to be raised now and strongly, or the President will lose the opportunity to carry out one of his key election promises: reexamination of climate science and how that science informs policy-making that has vast economic and political implications.

There are three problems involving climate science that many others within the Administration do not understand: (i) The law does not assign responsibility for assessing the significance of greenhouse gas emissions to EPA; (ii) the law does not permit the federal government to assume the science is settled; and, (iii) the Red team -- Blue team concept simply does not apply within the scientific community. I opt for the Red, White and Blue team approach, with a heavy dash of Karl Popper thrown in.

Who is responsible for assessing climate science?

The Subcommittee on Global Change Research (GCRC) of the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability of the National Science and Technology Council was established to plan and coordinate the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), as described in the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-606). The USGCRP provides for development and coordination of a comprehensive and integrated research program, which assesses, predicts and responds to human-induced and natural processes of global change.¹ Among its eleven functions is the duty to conduct a periodic scientific assessment which addresses the following:

(1) integrates, evaluates, and interprets the findings of the Program and discusses the scientific uncertainties associated with such findings;

(2) analyzes the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity; and

(3) analyzes current trends in global change, both human-induced and natural, and projects major trends for the subsequent 25 to 100 years.

The staff at the Office of Science and Technology Policy are currently engaged in writing the statutorily mandated 2017 “National Climate Assessment.” This is a legacy of the Obama administration, one being done as quickly and quietly as possible by the Obama holdovers ensconced at OSTP. The Assessment draws on the science as discussed in another statutorily mandated report, the “Research Plan.” Both the Assessment (currently in draft) and the Research Plan parrot an alarmist view of the “settled” science. The Research Plan was published days before President Trump took office. Both the Research Plan and the Assessment need to go back to ground zero and be redone, and a properly appointed OSTP leadership and staff have all the authority and tools needed to reexamine the science.

How do we know a redux is needed? The National Academy of Science (well known to lean toward climate alarmism), said so.² Among many recommendations, the Academy stated a need for “expanding the discussion of specific topic areas, to better reflect the full breadth of literature and understanding of the subject” and “Wherever possible, figures depicting observed trends should indicate the statistical significance of those trends, or confidence intervals.” A close reading of the NAS review indicates the GCRC effort reeks of failure to employ the basics of science as encapsulated in the Information Quality Act (IQA) guidelines that apply to federal agencies, including the White House offices.

EPA provides but one of fourteen members to GCRC and its representative is not currently the chairman of the committee nor does it provide the executive director. OSTP and its GCRC have the authority and resources to conduct a reexamination of the science. EPA can play, but it isn’t in charge and doesn’t have the authority under the Global Change Research Act of 1990 to unilaterally undertake this effort.

Red Team -- Blue Team Silliness.

The latest riff on climate has been the suggestion of using a Red team -- Blue team approach. As eminent a scientist as Steven Koonin, a theoretical physicist who served as Obama's undersecretary for science at the Energy Department, has endorsed the idea. He has been accused of setting up a strawman argument regarding whether climate science is "settled."³ Mr. Pruitt has indicated he wants Dr. Koonin to be the lead in a Red Team -- Blue Team effort. I can understand that an attorney like Mr. Pruitt might be comfortable with an adversarial process; or that legislators (read politicians) would think this an idea worthy of use. It's an idea that grows out of ignorance of the scientific process or science itself.

Red teaming is a practice coming out of the national security community. According to them, it is the practice of viewing a problem from an adversary or competitor's perspective. Those of us who have served in the military understand the value of having one's strategic and tactical approaches challenged by opposing forces. That, however, is not how science works. Science is supposed to be done by individuals "disinterested" in the outcome of their observations. It is not supposed to be a political blood sport.

Science consists of making observations and attempting to "falsify" hypotheses based on observation. Where there are conflicting hypotheses, scientists test each. Often, each is falsified and each hypothesis has to be tossed. Lately, "science" has foundered on the rocks of academic imperialism. There is less of a division between "alarmists" and "skeptics" than between those whose future (read funding) is risked by climate skepticism (the alarmists) and those who need not worry about such support (the skeptics). The risk of loss of funding, and consequently loss of academic promotion and standing, is real and imposing.

Non-transparency in academic science has exacerbated this problem. When the public, and especially the technologically and scientifically literate public, can't look deeply into the practices of scientists, there is no pressure to maintain the ethics of science.

What is needed is the convening of a scientific reevaluation of climate science, done in the most public fashion. As I discussed with senior EPA leadership before I left, webcasting a detailed discussion of critical issues, with the opportunity for viewers to pose appropriate technical questions during the discussion, would allow for the transparency and the depth needed to ensure a full rendering of our understanding of greenhouse gases on climate. It would also educate the 90 percent of U.S. citizens who admit they don't know enough about climate change to have a view on the subject.

One additional element would be needed. All points of view and kinds of expertise need to be at the table. In the climate community, this has been nearly impossible to achieve, the animosity and professional fear within the community being what it is. A simple solution is to require any federal grantee or grant applicant to agree to participate in these sessions. You want to feed at the federal trough, you have to be willing to engage with the federal government processes, including these kinds of scientific enterprises.

What about Mr. Pruitt's idea of televising a climate debate? It's an extension of failure to understand how science works. Structured debates are too limiting. If televised, they are too short. If a continuing loop of "Red Team argument," then "Blue Team argument," it is inefficient. The depth needed to be examined cannot be reached in a televised debate. It will in a scientific conclave specifically intended to reach such depths and provide for discussion rather than antagonistic debate.

Finally, the fundamental questions that require reconsideration in light of evolving scientific observations include the following and should be the starting point for a full redraft of the Climate Science Special Report:

What empirical data (a) characterize climate conditions, changes in those conditions and normal variability in those conditions; and, (b) meet IQA criteria for quality, objectivity, utility and integrity?

What do IQA-qualified data tell us about how the climate has changed?

Using only IQA-qualified empirical data, (a) how sensitive is climate to GHGs, (b) how much of that sensitivity is attributable to human activity, and (c) what is the utility of these data as the basis for policy-making?

What methods for prediction of changes in climate conditions meet criteria necessary to allow policy reliance on such forecasting, criteria such as those mandated in financial forecasting?

What IQA-qualified empirical data characterize the beneficial and harmful consequences to human health and welfare of qualified climate change forecasts?

If EPA has a role to play, it is as a member of the GCRC. On climate issues, Mr. Pruitt will best serve this nation in following the law, implementing the climate statute and relying on competent scientists to follow fundamental scientific principles. Recognizing the challenges of a very large government with many departments and agencies, now is the time for leadership from the top. The President needs to appoint a head of OSTP and he or she needs to reorganize and recommit to a proper examination of climate science. -- *David Schnare*

Endnotes

¹ See, https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/ostp/SGCR_Charter.pdf.

² See, "Review of the Draft Climate Science Special Report" at <http://dels.nas.edu/Report/Review-Draft-Climate-Science/24712>.

³ <http://time.com/3445231/climate-denier-settled-science/>.

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David W. Schnare, Esq. Ph.D.

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Wed 8/30/2017 3:16:48 PM
Subject: Canada's Competition Bureau drops investigation into ICSC, Friends of Science, and Heartland

Congratulations, Tom Harris!

Joe

<http://www.edmontonsun.com/2017/08/29/competition-bureau-drops-investigation-into-climate-change-denier-billboards-ads>

Competition Bureau drops investigation into climate change denier billboards, ads

Rob Csernyik

First posted: Tuesday, August 29, 2017 05:31 PM MDT | Updated: Wednesday, August 30, 2017 05:50 AM MDT

The federal Competition Bureau has discontinued an inquiry that started last June into groups accused of making false or misleading claims about climate science.

Mélanie Beauchesne, a senior communications adviser with the federal government, said the allegations against the Friends of Science Society, International Climate Science Coalition and Heartland Institute are no longer being investigated.

"After careful consideration of the facts in this case," she said in an email, "and to ensure the effective allocation of limited resources, the commissioner of competition decided to discontinue this inquiry."

The 24-page complaint, filed in December 2015 by Charles Hatt of the Ecojustice legal charity, alleged that anti-climate change statements contravened the Competition Act's rules against false and misleading representations.

The complaint outlined numerous examples of billboards and other advertisements that denied man-made climate change appearing in cities across Canada, including Edmonton and Calgary. These included billboards from the Friends of Science Society featuring statements such as "Global Warming? Not for 18+ years!" and "The sun is the main driver of climate change. Not you. Not CO2."

Hatt filed the complaint on behalf of six individuals, including Tzaporah Berman, who recently served on, and was dismissed from, the Alberta Oil Sands Advisory Group, and David Schindler of the University of Alberta.

In a news release Tuesday, Hatt said that public conversation must be based on scientific evidence, not falsehoods and junk science.

“We are extremely disappointed that after more than a year, the Competition Bureau has dropped its investigation into climate denier groups who appear to purposely mislead and deceive the public about climate change science to help preserve the status quo of a fossil fuel-based economy,” Hatt said in a news release.

Schindler, a professor emeritus of biology, spoke with Postmedia about the complaint in 2015.

“What they do is use short snippets of data that support their point of view, and (then) talk about there not being anything settled on climate,” Schindler said.

“Well, recent papers show 97 per cent of people who publish on climate change agree on what causes climate change.”

rcsernyik@postmedia.com

With files from Gordon Kent

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Tue 7/25/2017 3:00:56 PM
Subject: More on the Red Team idea

FYI.

Joe

Climatewire

POLITICS

Contenders for Pruitt's 'red team' say it would be 'a hoot'

Robin Bravender, E&E News reporter

Published: Tuesday, July 25, 2017

U.S. EPA chief Scott Pruitt and his colleagues won't have any trouble finding scientists keen on poking holes in mainstream views about climate change.

Pruitt and other members of the Trump administration have proposed launching a so-called red-team effort to give scientists in the minority the chance to take shots at the prevailing views about how much human activity contributes to climate change.

How that effort shapes up remains to be seen. Pruitt has suggested televised sparring between the two sides, and he's reportedly looking to hire a former Obama administration official to lead the effort.

Scientists who feel they've been marginalized for years have plenty of ideas for the new administration, and some — feeling newly empowered under the Trump administration — are eager to join the red team.

"I'd be interested," said John Christy, a climate scientist at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Christy has been pushing for a red-team review of climate science for years. He pointed to his testimony before Congress in 2012, when he said taxpayer funds should be used for "well-credentialed scientists to produce an assessment that expresses legitimate, alternative hypotheses that have been (in their view) marginalized, misrepresented or ignored" in previous government-funded climate reports.

Count Judith Curry as another who would join the effort. She's a climatologist and former professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

"If the powers that be want me involved, I would be happy to help," Curry said last week in an interview. She has been a vocal supporter of the red-team concept.

Pruitt is considering hiring former Obama administration energy official Steven Koonin to oversee the effort, according to Myron Ebell, who led the EPA transition team for the Trump administration (*Greenwire*, July 24).

Koonin's April op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal* calling for climate red teams made waves in the climate world and got the attention of Pruitt, who discussed the article with Koonin in his office that month. Pruitt told Reuters that he "took the opportunity" to talk about the article during an unrelated meeting. He called Koonin's piece "exciting."

Koonin declined to comment on whether he's in talks with Pruitt about leading such an effort, but some see him as a logical candidate.

"He would be, I think, the ideal person to coordinate this and put the thing together," said Curry. "I would feel very comfortable about this whole thing if he had some role."

"He's a straight shooter, and he's got the credibility because of his position in the Obama administration," she said. "He seems like a reasonably objective person to people on both sides."

The Trump administration has reached out to the Heartland Institute, a conservative think tank, for ideas about the initiative, said H. Sterling Burnett, a Heartland research fellow on environmental policy.

Burnett suggested some potential candidates for the red team, a roster he called "climate realists." They include Christy; William Happer, a Princeton University physics professor and a rumored contender to be Trump's science adviser; David Legates of the University of Delaware; and Patrick Michaels, director of the Center for the Study of Science at the Cato Institute.

Christy offered several names, including his colleague at the University of Alabama, Roy Spencer; Richard Lindzen from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Roger Pielke Sr., a senior research scientist at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences in Colorado.

While picking members of the red team might be easy, the administration might have a tougher time finding participants for the so-called blue team.

Many climate scientists have complained that the exercise presents a trap for those who see the science as settled. Participating would lend the minority of researchers who question mainstream climate science a high-profile platform; refusing to take part would allow critics to say the climate scientists are hiding something (*Climatewire*, July 13).

So how will this work?

Proponents of the red-team approach have plenty of ideas about how it could happen.

Pruitt's suggestion that the debates could be televised garnered a lot of attention, but many climate researchers on both sides have slammed that as a bad idea. They say TV would require complex concepts to be too distilled.

A televised debate "would be a fiasco," Curry said.

Instead, some want to see a series of reports, congressional hearings, or even a website where theories

are posted and outsiders can take aim when they see problems.

Curry suggested a series of reports followed by congressional hearings. Those could look at a range of topics like the social cost of carbon or impact issues like sea-level rise or extreme weather.

"You can imagine any number of topics that would be relevant, but the policymakers have to pick which ones they care about," she said.

Ebell, who is at the conservative Competitive Enterprise Institute, pointed to the "Team B" effort in the 1970s under then-CIA Director George H.W. Bush to assess the Soviet Union's capabilities.

"They took the same intel that the CIA was using, and they gave a different analysis of it," Ebell said. "That's one way to do it."

Ebell said if the effort is housed at EPA, it would likely be in the agency's Office of Research and Development. Other offices could also take the lead, like NOAA or the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, he said.

Christy suggested that topics like the physical science of climate, the benefits of increased carbon dioxide or the value of affordable energy to poor people could be up for discussion.

"In this day and age, I would guess you'd do it with reports, probably electronically," Christy said. He suggested a website in which the red team presents its case for the evidence and outsiders take their best shot at its findings.

"It would be a hoot and pretty complicated to manage," he said.

David Gelernter, a professor of computer science at Yale University who has also been rumored as a possible nominee to lead the White House science office, said he's "hoped for years that we could organize a head-to-head presentation of arguments by some strong man-made climate change people and strong anti-[man-made climate change] thinkers."

He said the effort would be like "a war game" in a sense.

He pitched having policymakers and the public and press hear presentations, "say, an hour from each side," with another hour or so to ask questions. "This brief session wouldn't settle anything but would make it absolutely clear to everyone, I think, that we need more such sessions — we need a month of them, or half a year of them," he said.

Gelernter sees the dialogue as urgent.

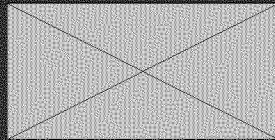
"We need to have this debate now, this afternoon. It's got to happen, and it will, in some form — I hope in a form that builds clarity and not just rancor," he said.

EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman didn't respond to a request for comment about how the effort is shaping up. She told E&E News earlier this month: "I understand everyone is very interested in the Red Team/Blue Team, but please stay tuned for more information."

Twitter: [@rbravender](https://twitter.com/rbravender) Email: rbravender@eenews.net

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Tue 8/29/2017 10:22:09 PM
Subject: Economist: Weather-related disasters are increasing—but the number of deaths caused by them is falling

[View in browser](#) | [E-mail a friend](#)



The latest from The
Economist

Daily Dispatch | Tuesday | August 29th 2017

Extreme weather: *Le déluge*

The number of natural disasters worldwide has more than quadrupled since 1970 to around 400 a year. There are six times more hydrological events, such as those in Texas or South Asia, now than in 1980. Yet fewer people are dying, thanks to improved building strength, flood-prevention schemes and other measures. To reduce deaths still further, urban planners may have to plan for more such extreme events, writes our data team

Advertisement

Oil excavation: Norwegian wouldn't

Ahead of elections next month, Norway's two main parties have said they want to end a ban on oil excavation around the Lofoten Islands, an area estimated to hold 1.3bn barrels of the stuff. Yet there are sound environmental, economic and infrastructural reasons to keep the archipelago pristine. With the Green Party likely to play an important electoral role, analysts expect the ban to remain in place

Checked baggage: On the right track

The number of lost bags is at an all-time low. Today just six out of every 1,000 airline passengers can expect to be separated from their luggage. That should improve further from June 2018 when the International Air Transport Association introduces mandatory tracking. With checked bags having to be identified at four stages of their journey, traditional luggage tags will need to be replaced by something more futuristic

~7.30pm London

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To: Nancy Thorner [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]
From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 3:12:09 PM
Subject: Excellent piece by Nancy Throrner and Ed Ingold on Paris and on sea level

See especially the highlighted paragraphs. Nancy Thorner can be reached at
[Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy]

Joe

<http://illinoisreview.typepad.com/illinoisreview/2017/06/thorneringold-trump-rejects-robbing-peter-to-pay-paul.html>

Thorner/Ingold: Trump Rejects Robbing Peter to Pay Paul

By Nancy Thorner & Ed Ingold -

President Trump announced on Thursday, June 1, 2017 that the United States would withdraw from the Paris Climate Change Accord, unilaterally and without reservations. As stated by President Trump:

It is time to exit the Paris accord and time to pursue a new deal that protects the environment, our companies, our citizens and our country ... It is time to put Youngstown, Ohio, Detroit, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, along with many, many other locations within our great country, before Paris, France.

In so doing, President Trump kept his campaign promise to cancel the Paris Climate Agreement, but the fight for withdrawal was a difficult one. President Trump faced enormous pressure from international leaders, multi-national corporations, the political establishment, and even among his own advisors.

Trump's speech was powerful, to the point, and effective. He invited Democrats to participate, but warned that nothing will change with or without their support. Should the agreement be renegotiated, it would be as a treaty, with the consent of 2/3rds of the Senate. Even so, this nation would continue to have the clean air and water, but without the bureaucratic and financial burdens imposed by other nations. Not mentioned by Trump was this favorable outcome, with increased oil and natural gas production, we can maintain Europe in the event Russia tries to strangle their supplies from the East.

The mitigation efforts specified by the agreement would reduce global warming by less than 0.2 degrees C by 2100, while funneling hundreds of billions of US dollars into the private bank accounts of third world dictators. If allowed to remain in effect, our economy would be held at less than 2% growth, whereas we need 4% to sustain full employment and our social obligations to our own citizens.

It will be hard for Democrats to run for office on the promise that the US will be strangled for a "good cause", yet California Governor Jerry Brown says that his and 13 other Blue states will continue to abide by the Paris Accord. Undoubtedly, the residents of these Blue states will experience "blue feelings" not of their own making, as taxpayer money is spent to pay for the "warm feelings" of Gov. Jerry Brown and other Blue state governors. If "clean" energy is so good, much less sufficient 24/7, why not let it stand or fall on its own merits?

Paris Accord as a Ploy to Impose Socialism

Apologists for the Paris Accord maintain that any effort is better than none; however, the only effects in the US -- using the Paris Accord as justification -- are the draconian and expensive measures proposed by Obama

Former President Barack Obama blasted Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris global warming accords (one of Obama's signature schemes to impose socialism in America) which he characterized as America vacating its leadership role on the world stage. Obama had "agreed" to do things which would cripple this nation's economy and make us much less competitive on the world market. On the other hand, China, which also complied with the agreement, agreed to nothing. Meanwhile, China is in the process of building 350 coal fired power plants, one every two weeks under the current plan. In central China coal plants spew unfiltered smoke into the air. On a bad day in Beijing, visibility is about 200 feet.

Completely omitted from bluster from the Left is the money Obama committed the US to pay into a "world account" to benefit third world countries. Paradoxically, China is among the benefactors, even though its economy will surpass the US in the next year or two.

According to the Left, the US stands in opposition to the rest of the world, but this nation was a rogue nation to begin with. Only half a dozen countries declined the Paris Agreement. This is hardly surprising. The wealthiest nations, other than the US, opted to give much less financial support for what is essentially a "feel-good" agreement. When you rob Peter to pay Paul, you can expect the complete support of Paul in your endeavors.

United Nation's IPCC Panel Reports Misleading with Exaggerated and Inaccurate Global Warming Claims

In the wake of President Trump's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord, came the predictable howl of protest from the eco-theocracy and those who use environmental concerns as pretexts for the imposition of fascist or socialist government controls on human activity. Democrat billionaire climate activist Tom Steyer called Trump's Paris exit a "traitorous act of

war." Tom Steyer, along with General Electric, is heavily invested in wind power, which receives substantial subsidies from federal and state governments (as long as it's not in the proponent's back yard).

Democrats, speaking on behalf of the "vast majority of scientists", were quick to form a chorus of protest and proceeded to read from the same sheet of talking points. While key figures like Kerry and Pelosi are free to improvise their own "facts", anyone daring to dispute the key talking points will be shunned and be subject to an attempt made to primary them out of their positions in Congress. Rep. Nancy Pelosi claimed that President Trump was "dishonoring" God and questioned whether his grandchildren will even be able to breathe air after his announcement a day earlier that he would withdraw from the Paris climate accord.

Nations of the world, with Al Gore leading the unsubstantiated claims in this nation, have long been assured to believe that reports produced by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) are authoritative because they rely entirely on peer-reviewed, scientific literature. They support the hypothesis that global warming is real and manmade, while rejecting The Heartland Institute's reports produced by the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) who have come together to present a comprehensive, authoritative, and realistic assessment of the science and economics of global warming.

The IPCC scientists largely come from academia, which is so politicized to the left that any dissent is considered disloyalty to the organization. As a result, violators are subject to verbal and physical attacks and risk losing their jobs. Supporters, on the other hand, highly vocal with many of them depending on government grants to support their work on climate issues, know that a negative report would end their funding. In addition, very few of the IPCC scientists have actually published scientific papers in support of their position.

Out of about 13,000 peer-reviewed scientific publications in 2016, only about a dozen were not in support of climate change, and none provided proof that human activity was to blame, rather that change was occurring.

How about coastlines in danger? For starters, it is exceedingly difficult to establish what the sea level actually is. It is measured mainly on its relationship to coastlines and traditionally consists of the mean level half-way between high and low tide, averaged over 19 years. Depending on other factors, like salinity, temperature, air pressure and weather, it can vary as much as 5 meters in many locations. The largest effect is weather, particularly storm surges, where the sea level bulges under low pressure areas like hurricanes. While the sea level is one factor, the shorelines themselves are not constant. Nor is the earth's gravity constant throughout. For simplicity the "surface" of the earth is described in a handful of "geoids of reference" to describe effective sea level. Only recently have measurements from satellites added a higher degree of consistency, subject to variations due to the factors described above.

Are islands in the Pacific sinking? Absolutely. A clear example is the state of the Hawaiian Islands, which extends 1800 miles northwest of the 8 large islands constituting the State of Hawaii. Most of this archipelago are very low to the sea, and remnants are under water, due to erosion. They were formed from volcanic activity over a relatively fixed plume of magma in the

mantle as the continental plate moved to the northwest at a rate of about 32 miles/mm years. Midway Island falls near the terminus, and consists of a coral atoll, which formed around a volcanic island now eroded until it forms the floor of the lagoon in the atoll. The erosion of islands is illustrated dramatically by the Hawaiian archipelago, but applies to similar islands throughout the world.

Southern California is subsiding, in part by tectonic movements of the Pacific plate, but mostly because of the depletion of water and petroleum in the last century. Another self-proclaimed “victim” of climate change is Miami Beach, which was built on a barrier island of sand, augmented by landfill. While large buildings are anchored in bedrock, streets and small buildings are built on sand. The consequences are somewhat biblical in nature. Washington DC is built on a swamp, only inches above sea level even in Washington’s time. That sort of gives credence to Trump’s pledge to “clear the swamp.”

CO2 a Pollutant Only Because EPA Decided It Was

The thrust of the Paris Accord is the reduction in emission of carbon dioxide, a colorless and mostly odorless gas. It is “pollution” only in the sense that the EPA has decided it can be regulated as such. It does not contribute to “dirty air” nor “dirty water,” for which regulation will continue unabated. Medically speaking, asthma is caused by allergies, not pollution, although pollution can make it harder for people, including asthmatics, to breathe.

MIT atmospheric science professor Richard Lindzen suggests that many claims regarding climate change are exaggerated and unnecessarily alarmist and that the belief that CO2 controls the climate "is pretty close to believing in magic.

The Paris Accord actually does little to mitigate climate change nor carbon dioxide emissions. The standards are non-existent and compliance is strictly voluntary. What is spelled out in more detail are payments extracted from developed countries to undeveloped countries. Domestically, President Obama used the Paris Accord to impose new taxes and regulations by fiat, without Congressional approval. It has been used as a lawful treaty without the necessary approval of 2/3rds of the Senate.

Global Warming Alarmists as Worshipers of Mother Earth

As Dr. James Hansen, NASA’s former lead global warming scientist, said of the UN Paris Pact:

The Paris agreement is a fraud really, a fake. It’s just bullshit for them to say: We’ll have a 2C warming target and then try to do a little better every five years. It’s just worthless words. There is no action, just promises. As long as fossil fuels appear to be the cheapest fuels out there, they will be continued to be burned.

Mark Morano, founder of Climate Deport, spoke of global warming as akin to a religious issue to many global warming alarmists, in that they worship "Mother Earth." On the Tipping Point with Liz Wheeler of One America News Network Morano remarked:

What Trump did today was a blow to superstition. No longer in Washington DC do we have to pretend that a UN climate treaty can save the planet or actually control temperature or impact storminess. This truly is a day that science has won out in DC and that is a rare day when it comes to climate change.

One could ask, if compliance is voluntary, what does it matter if the US is in or out? The most plausible answer is that it affects the “legacy” of President Obama, hence the legitimacy of his administration and that of Democrats for the last 8 years. \$1.6 trillion dollars and a crippled economy is a big price to pay for a few egos.

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 8/28/2017 9:33:17 PM
Subject: Roy Spencer: Why Houston Flooding Isn't a Sign of Climate Change

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2017/08/why-houston-flooding-isnt-a-sign-of-climate-change/>

Why Houston Flooding Isn't a Sign of Climate Change

August 28, 2017 By [Roy W. Spencer](#) 1 Comment

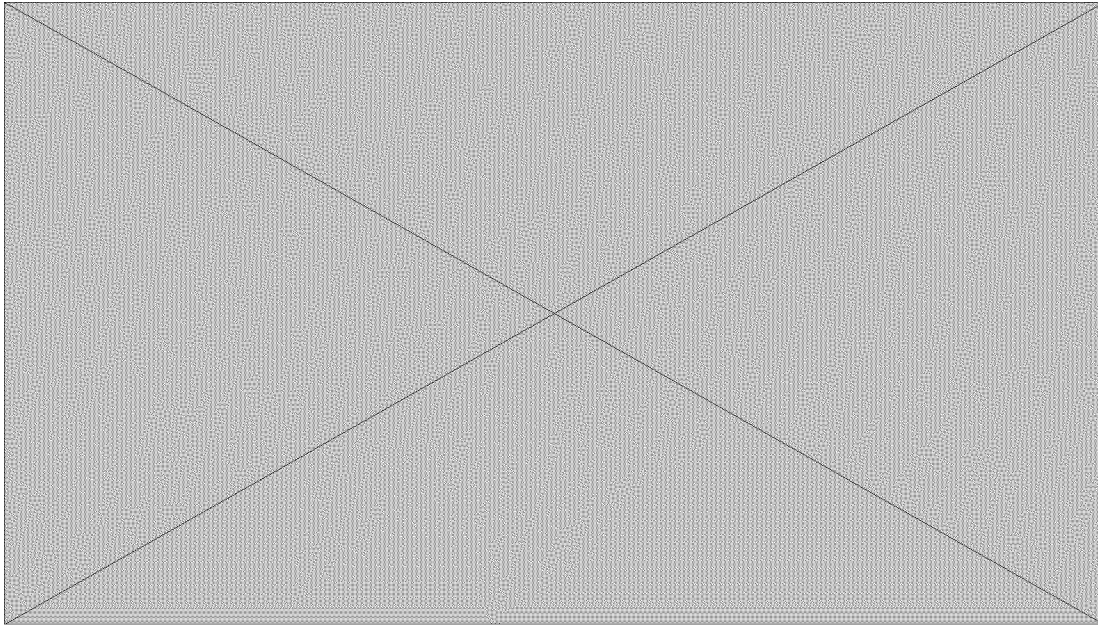
In the context of climate change, is what we are seeing in Houston a new level of disaster which is becoming more common?

The flood disaster unfolding in Houston is certainly very unusual. But so are other natural weather disasters, which have always occurred and always will occur.

Floods aren't just due to weather

Major floods are difficult to compare throughout history because of the ways in which we alter the landscape. For example, as cities like Houston expand over the years, soil is covered up by roads, parking lots, and buildings, with water rapidly draining off rather than soaking into the soil. The population of Houston is now ten times what it was in the 1920s. The Houston metroplex area has expanded greatly and the water drainage is basically in the direction of downtown Houston.

There have been many flood disasters in the Houston area, even dating to the mid-1800s when the population was very low. In December of 1935 a massive flood occurred in the downtown area as the water level height measured at Buffalo Bayou in Houston topped out at 54.4 feet.



Downtown Houston Flood of 1935

By way of comparison, as of 6:30 a.m. this (Monday) morning, the water level in the same location is at 38 feet, which is still 16 feet lower than in 1935. I'm sure that will continue to rise.

Are the rainfall totals unprecedented?

Even that question is difficult to answer. The exact same tropical system moving at, say, 15 mph might have produced the same total amount of rain, but it would have been spread over a wide area, maybe many states, with no flooding disaster. This is usually what happens with land-falling hurricanes.

Instead, Harvey stalled after it came ashore and so all of the rain has been concentrated in a relatively small portion of Texas around the Houston area. In both cases, the atmosphere produced the same amount of rain, but where the rain lands is very different. People like those in the Houston area don't want all of the rain to land on them.

There is no aspect of global warming theory that says rain systems are going to be moving slower, as we are seeing in Texas. This is just the luck of the draw. Sometimes weather systems stall, and that sucks if you are caught under one. The same is true of high pressure areas; when they stall, a drought results.

Even with the system stalling, the greatest multi-day rainfall total as of 3 a.m. this

Monday morning is just over 30 inches, with many locations recording over 20 inches. We should recall that Tropical Storm Claudette in 1979 (a much smaller and weaker system than Harvey) produced a 43 inch rainfall total in only 24 hours in Houston.

Was Harvey unprecedented in intensity?

In this case, we didn't have just a tropical storm like Claudette, but a major hurricane, which covered a much larger area with heavy rain. Roger Pielke Jr. has pointed out that the U.S. has had only four Category 4 (or stronger) hurricane strikes since 1970, but in about the same number of years preceding 1970 there were 14 strikes. So we can't say that we are experiencing more intense hurricanes in recent decades.

Going back even earlier, a Category 4 hurricane struck Galveston in 1900, killing between 6,000 and 12,000 people. That was the greatest natural disaster in U.S. history.

And don't forget, we just went through an unprecedented length of time – almost 12 years – without a major hurricane (Cat 3 or stronger) making landfall in the U.S.

So what makes this event unprecedented?

The National Weather Service has termed the event unfolding in the Houston area as unprecedented. I'm not sure why. I suspect in terms of damage and number of people affected, that will be the case. But the primary reason won't be because this was an unprecedented meteorological event.

If we are talking about the 100 years or so that we have rainfall records, then it might be that southeast Texas hasn't seen this much total rain fall over a fairly wide area. At this point it doesn't look like any rain gage locations will break the record for total 24 hour rainfall in Texas, or possibly even for storm total rainfall, but to have so large an area having over 20 inches is very unusual.

They will break records for their individual gage locations, but that's the kind of record that is routinely broken somewhere anyway, like record high and low temperatures.

In any case, I'd be surprised if such a meteorological event didn't happen in centuries past in this area, before we were measuring them.

And don't pay attention to claims of 500 year flood events, which most hydrologists dislike because we don't have enough measurements over time to determine such things, especially when they also depend on our altering of the landscape over time.

Bill Read, a former director of the National Hurricane Center was asked by a CNN news anchor whether he thought that Harvey was made worse because of global warming. Read's response was basically, No.

"Unprecedented" doesn't necessarily mean it represents a new normal. It can just be a rare combination of events. In 2005 the U.S. was struck by many strong hurricanes, and the NHC even ran out of names to give all of the tropical storms. Then we went almost 12 years without a major (Cat 3 or stronger) hurricane strike.

Weird stuff happens.

I remember many years ago in one of the NWS annual summaries of lightning deaths there was a golfer who was struck by lightning. While an ambulance transported the man to the hospital, the ambulance was struck by lightning and it finished the poor fellow off.

There is coastal lake sediment evidence of catastrophic hurricanes which struck the Florida panhandle over 1,000 years ago, events which became less frequent in the most recent 1,000 years.

Weather disasters happen, with or without the help of humans.

Originally published on DrRoySpencer.com.

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 7/24/2017 1:36:45 PM
Subject: Trump EPA Red Team and the Heartland Institute

FYI.

Joe

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/trump-administration-lining-up-climate-change-red-team/article/2629124>

Trump administration lining up climate change 'red team'

by [John Siciliano](#) | Jul 24, 2017, 12:02 AM

The Heartland Institute has been a long proponent of a Red Team "to critically examine what has become alarmist dogma rather than a sober evaluation of climate science for many years."

The Trump administration is in the beginning stages of forming an adversarial "red team" to play devil's advocate in a plan to debate the facts behind global warming and take on what skeptics call climate alarmism.

The White House and the Environmental Protection Agency are recruiting scientists by enlisting the help of the Heartland Institute, considered to be the lead think tank for challenging the majority of scientists on climate change.

The institute has its own red team, which is the antithesis to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which it calls, unabashedly, the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change.

"The White House and the Environmental Protection Agency have reached out to the Heartland Institute to help identify scientists who could constitute a red team, and we've been happy to oblige," Jim Lakely, the group's communications director, told the *Washington Examiner*.

"This effort is long overdue," he said. "The climate scientists who have dominated the deliberations and the products of the IPCC have gone almost wholly without challenge. That is a

violation of the scientific method and the public's trust."

The Heartland Institute has been a long proponent of a red team "to critically examine what has become alarmist dogma rather than a sober evaluation of climate science for many years," Lakely said. "In fact, Heartland has worked closely with a red team that has been examining the science for several years: the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change, or NIPCC."

What the Trump administration may pull together in creating its red team might look a little like what Heartland has created.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt "believes that we will be able to recruit the best in the fields which study climate and will organize a specific process in which these individuals ... provide back-and-forth critique of specific new reports on climate science," a senior administration official told the news service Climatewire late last month.

"We are, in fact, very excited about this initiative. Climate science, like other fields of science, is constantly changing. A new, fresh, and transparent evaluation is something everyone should support doing," the official said.

The Heartland team continues to publish reports challenging IPCC and other climate scientists, which it began eight years ago. The group has produced four volumes of "Climate Change Reconsidered," with a fifth coming out later this year, Lakely said.

"Hundreds of scientists have reviewed and helped produce those volumes, which have been published by the Heartland Institute," Lakely said. The reports total more than 3,000 pages.

The irony behind the Trump administration taking up the approach is that it was suggested by a former Obama administration official, Steve Koonin, who suggested a red team-blue team approach to clear out the politics and address the science. Koonin teaches at New York University.

He suggested the idea in an April op-ed in the Wall Street Journal. The exercise would include a red team, representing climate skeptics, squaring off against a blue team, representing the majority of scientists who believe the Earth's temperature is warming because of increased greenhouse gas emissions caused by manmade activity.

The team approach was created by the military during the Cold War era to test assumptions about the Soviet Union's military capabilities. For climate change, it would offer an adversarial approach to challenge assumptions and form different conclusions when considering how much of warming is due to carbon dioxide emissions and how much is from natural changes.

"It's a great opportunity for this country to have a conversation about the climate and get the politics out of it and bring the scientists together," is how Energy Secretary Rick Perry floated it in June before a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on the fiscal 2018 budget.

"As a matter of fact, the undersecretary of energy for President Obama, Steven Koonin, has said, who is a theoretical physicist and was over at the department and knows this issue rather well, and he says it's probably time for us to have a conversation with all the politics out of room."

Perry was the first administration official to suggest the idea in public, although he suggested it hypothetically, with no plan to implement the team.

But EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is setting the plan in motion.

"It's my understanding that Scott Pruitt is trying to hire Koonin to be in charge of the whole thing," said Myron Ebell, Trump's former EPA transition chief, who is environment director at the libertarian Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Neither the EPA nor Koonin returned calls to confirm his being tapped for the post of red team leader.

But Ebell points out the logic in having him participate. "He's an honest broker, right?" Ebell said. "He served in the Obama administration but he thinks we haven't had a sufficient debate. He would have a lot of credibility, I think, running the whole process.

"I don't know what they have in mind in how to do it, and I certainly don't know what Koonin has in mind," Ebell said. "In general, we need to go beyond what the establishment says whenever they're confronted, which is, 'You can trust us.' I don't think we can trust them."

Ebell says he would rather "trust, then verify," using former President Ronald Reagan's old adage when dealing with the Soviet Union. "I'm not saying the scientists are Soviets. I just think that's a good approach to take, particularly when the policies being advocated are going to cost trillions of dollars over the next several decades."

A group that is often tapped to bring different groups together to work out difficult political issues is not sure about how the administration will shape the teams or what the goal of the process will be.

"It's still not entirely clear what the scope of the 'red team-blue team' exercise will be, but in our evaluation, human activity is having an impact on the climate," said Tracy Terry, director of the energy project at the Bipartisan Policy Center. "With climate change occurring, the exercise could be useful if it focuses on the range of potential impacts and best approaches to mitigation and adaptation."

A scientist with the environmental think tank World Resources Institute says it is clear that the approach is wrong.

"Indeed, it has been used by major companies in internal strategic exercises, but it is entirely inappropriate for science," Kelly Levin wrote in a recent blog post. "It has no place in determining the science of a changing climate."

Levin heads the group's program to track carbon emissions in the developing world.

"The overwhelming majority — 97 percent — of peer-reviewed papers in the literature support the consensus view that human activities have contributed to the majority of recent warming," with a "vanishing small proportion" of published research rejecting the scientific consensus, she said.

But "giving equal, 50-50 weight to both the red and blue teams in the exercise would mislead the public into thinking there is a debate when there isn't one," Levin said. "And the Trump administration is likely to stack the red team with fossil fuel industry interests, as it has done with its Cabinet positions."

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 2:25:18 PM
Subject: Wow, Der Spiegel really really really really hates Trump

With apologies for its length, but this probably gives a full picture of what Europe thinks of our president. I gave up highlighting the most outrageous statements after a while. Geeze!

Joe

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/trump-pulls-out-of-climate-deal-western-rift-deepens-a-1150486-amp.html>

Friday, 6/2/2017 06:00 PM

Donald Trump's Triumph of Stupidity

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other G-7 leaders did all they could to convince Trump to remain part of the Paris Agreement. But he didn't listen. Instead, he evoked deep-seated nationalism and plunged the West into a conflict deeper than any since World War II.

U.S. President Donald Trump announced his intention to pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement on climate change on Thursday. In doing so, America joins Syria and Nicaragua as the only non-signatories to the deal.

By SPIEGEL Staff

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other world leaders did all they could at the G-7 summit

in Sicily last week to convince Trump to remain a part of the Paris Agreement. When it had become clear that they had failed, French President Emmanuel Macron said: "Now, China leads."

Until the very end, they tried behind closed doors to get him to change his mind. For the umpteenth time, they presented all the arguments -- the humanitarian ones, the geopolitical ones and, of course, the economic ones. They listed the advantages for the economy and for American companies. They explained how limited the hardships would be.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was the last one to speak, according to the secret minutes taken last Friday afternoon in the luxurious conference hotel in the Sicilian town of Taormina -- meeting notes that DER SPIEGEL has been given access to. Leaders of the world's seven most powerful economies were gathered around the table and the issues under discussion were the global economy and sustainable development.

The newly elected French president, Emmanuel Macron, went first. It makes sense that the Frenchman would defend the international treaty that bears the name of France's capital: The Paris Agreement. "Climate change is real and it affects the poorest countries," Macron said.

Then, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau reminded the U.S. president how successful the fight against the ozone hole had been and how it had been possible to convince industry leaders to reduce emissions of the harmful gas.

Finally, it was Merkel's turn. Renewable energies, said the chancellor, present significant economic opportunities. "If the world's largest economic power were to pull out, the field would be left to the Chinese," she warned. Xi Jinping is clever, she added, and would take advantage of the vacuum it created. Even the Saudis were preparing for the post-oil era, she continued, and saving energy is also a worthwhile goal for the economy for many other reasons, not just because of climate change.

But Donald Trump remained unconvinced. No matter how trenchant the argument presented by the increasingly frustrated group of world leaders, none of them had an effect. "For me," the U.S.

president said, "it's easier to stay in than step out." But environmental constraints were costing the American economy jobs, he said. And that was the only thing that mattered. Jobs, jobs, jobs.

At that point, it was clear to the rest of those seated around the table that they had lost him. Resigned, Macron admitted defeat. "Now China leads," he said.

Still, it is likely that none of the G-7 heads of state and government expected the primitive brutality Trump would stoop to when announcing his withdrawal from the international community. Surrounded by sycophants in the Rose Garden at the White House, he didn't just proclaim his withdrawal from the climate agreement, he sowed the seeds of international conflict. His speech was a break from centuries of Enlightenment and rationality. The president presented his political statement as a nationalist manifesto of the most imbecilic variety. It couldn't have been any worse.

A Catastrophe for the Climate

His speech was packed with make-believe numbers from controversial or disproven studies. It was hypocritical and dishonest. In Trump's mind, the climate agreement is an instrument allowing other countries to enrich themselves at the expense of the United States. "I was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris," he said. Trump left no doubt that the well-being of the American economy is the only value he understands. It's no wonder that the other countries applauded when Washington signed the Paris Agreement, he said. "We don't want other leaders and other countries laughing at us anymore. And they won't be. They won't be."

Trump's withdrawal is a catastrophe for the climate. The U.S. is the second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases -- behind China -- and is now no longer part of global efforts to put a stop to climate change. It's America against the rest of the world, along with Syria and Nicaragua, the only other countries that haven't signed the Paris deal.

But the effects on the geopolitical climate are likely to be just as catastrophic. Trump's speech provided only the most recent proof that discord between the U.S. and Europe is deeper now than at any time since the end of World War II.

Now, the Western community of values is standing in opposition to Donald Trump. The G-7 has become the G-6. The West is divided.

For three-quarters of a century, the U.S. led and protected Europe. Despite all the mistakes and shortcomings exhibited by U.S. foreign policy, from Vietnam to Iraq, America's claim to leadership of the free world was never seriously questioned.

That is now no longer the case. The U.S. is led by a president who feels more comfortable taking part in a Saudi Arabian sword dance than he does among his NATO allies. And the estrangement has accelerated in recent days. First came his blustering at the NATO summit in Brussels, then the disagreement over the climate deal in Sicily followed by Merkel's speech in Bavaria, in which she called into question America's reliability as a partner for Europe. A short time later, Trump took to Twitter to declare a trade war -- and now, he has withdrawn the United States from international efforts to combat climate change.

A Downward Pointing Learning Curve

Many had thought that Trump could be controlled once he entered the White House, that the office of the presidency would bring him to reason. Berlin had placed its hopes in the moderating influence of his advisers and that there would be a sharp learning curve. Now that Trump has actually lived up to his threat to leave the climate deal, it is clear that if such a learning curve exists, it points downward.

The chancellor was long reluctant to make the rift visible. For Merkel, who grew up in communist East Germany, the alliance with the U.S. was always more than political calculation, it reflected her deepest political convictions. Now, she has -- to a certain extent, at least -- terminated the trans-Atlantic friendship with Trump's America.

In doing so, the German chancellor has become Trump's adversary on the international stage. And Merkel has accepted the challenge when it comes to trade policy and the quarrel over NATO finances. Now, she has done so as well on an issue that is near and dear to her heart: combating climate change.

Merkel's aim is that of creating an alliance against Trump. If she can't convince the U.S. president, her approach will be that of trying to isolate him. In Taormina, it was six countries against one. Should Trump not reverse course, she is hoping that the G-20 in Hamburg in July will end 19:1. Whether she will be successful is unclear.

Trump has identified Germany as his primary adversary. Since his inauguration in January, he has criticized no country -- with the exception of North Korea and Iran -- as vehemently as he has Germany. The country is "bad, very bad," he said in Brussels last week. Behind closed doors at the NATO summit, Trump went after Germany, saying there were large and prosperous countries that were not living up to their alliance obligations.

And he wants to break Germany's economic power. The trade deficit with Germany, he recently tweeted, is "very bad for U.S. This will change."

An Extreme Test

Merkel's verdict following Trump's visit to Europe could hardly be worse. There has never been an open break with America since the end of World War II; the alienation between Germany and the U.S. has never been so large as it is today. When Merkel's predecessor, Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, refused to provide German backing for George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq, his rebuff was limited to just one single issue. It was an extreme test of the trans-Atlantic relationship, to be sure, but in contrast to today, it was not a quarrel that called into question commonly held values like free trade, minority rights, press freedoms, the rule of law -- and climate policies.

To truly understand the consequences of Trump's decision, it is important to remember what climate change means for humanity -- what is hidden behind the temperature curves and emission-reduction targets.

Climate change means that millions are threatened with starvation because rain has stopped falling in some regions of the planet. It means that sea levels are rising and islands and coastal zones are flooding. It means the melting of the ice caps, more powerful storms, heatwaves, water shortages and deadly epidemics. All of that leads to conflicts over increasingly limited resources,

to flight and to migration.

In the U.S., too, there were plenty of voices warning the president of the consequences of his decision, Trump's daughter Ivanka and her husband Jared Kushner among them. Others included cabinet members like Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, along with pretty much the country's entire business elite.

Companies from Exxon and Shell to Google, Apple and Amazon to Wal-Mart and PepsiCo all appealed to Trump to not isolate the U.S. on climate policy. They are worried about international competitive disadvantages in a world heading toward green energy, whether the U.S. is along for the ride or not. Google, Microsoft and Apple have long since begun drawing their energy from renewable sources, with the ultimate goal of complete freedom from fossil fuels. Wind and solar farms are booming in the U.S. -- and hardly an investor can be found anymore for coal mining.

A long list of U.S. states, led by California, have charted courses that are in direct opposition to Trump's climate policy. According to a survey conducted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, almost three-quarters of Americans are opposed to withdrawing from the Paris Agreement.

The Absurdity of Trump's Histrionics

On the other side are right-wing nationalists such as Trump's chief strategist Stephen Bannon, who deny climate change primarily because fighting it requires international cooperation. Powerful Republicans have criticized the climate deal with the most specious of all arguments. The U.S., they say, would be faced with legal consequences were it to miss or lower its climate targets.

Yet international agreement on the Paris accord was only possible because it contains no punitive tools at all. The only thing signatories must do is report every five years how much progress they have made toward achieving their self-identified climate protection measures.

[The cover of this week's issue of DER SPIEGEL]

Therein lies the absurdity of Trump's histrionics. Nothing would have been easier for the U.S. than to take part pro forma in United Nations climate-related negotiations while completely ignoring climate protection measures at home -- which Trump has been doing anyway since his election.

In late March, for example, he signed an executive order to unwind part of Barack Obama's legacy, the Clean Power Plan. Among other measures, the plan called for the closure of aging coal-fired power plants, the reduction of methane emissions produced by oil and natural gas drilling, and stricter rules governing fuel efficiency in new vehicles. Without these measures, Obama's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by up to 28 percent by 2025, in comparison to 2005, will hardly be achievable. But Trump is also planning to head in the opposite direction. To make the U.S. less dependent on energy imports, he wants to return to coal, one of the dirtiest energy sources in existence -- even though energy independence was largely achieved years ago thanks to cheap, less environmentally damaging natural gas.

German and European efforts will now focus on keeping the other agreement signatories on board, which Berlin has already been working on for several weeks now. Because of the now-visible effects of climate change and the falling prices for renewable energies, German officials believe that the path laid forward by Paris is irreversible.

Berlin officials say that EU member states are eager to move away from fossil fuels, as are China and India. Even emissaries from Russia and Saudi Arabia, countries whose governments aren't generally considered to be enthusiastic promoters of renewable energy sources, have indicated to the Germans that "Paris will be complied with." On Thursday in Berlin, Merkel and Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang demonstratively reaffirmed their support for the Paris Agreement. Keqiang even spoke of "green growth."

China and India are likely to not just meet, but exceed their climate targets. China has been reducing its coal consumption for the last three years and plans for over 100 new coal-fired power plants have been scrapped. India, too, is abstaining from the construction of new coal-fired plants and will likely meet its goal of generating 40 percent of its electricity from non-fossil fuels by 2022, eight years earlier than planned. Both countries invest in solar and wind energy and in both, electricity from renewable sources is often cheaper than coal power.

Isolating the American President

The problem is that all of that still won't be enough to limit global warming to significantly below 2 degrees Celsius, as called for in the Paris deal. Much more commitment, much more decisiveness is necessary, particularly in countries that can afford it. Germany, for example, is almost certain to fall short of its target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 percent by 2020 relative to 1990.

In Taormina, Chancellor Merkel did all she could to isolate the American president. In the summit's closing declaration, she wanted to specifically mention the conflict between the U.S. and its allies over the climate pact. Normally, such documents tend to remain silent on such differences.

At the G-20 meeting in Hamburg, Merkel plans to stay the course. She hopes that all other countries at the meeting will stand up to the United States. Even if Saudi Arabia ends up supporting its ally Trump, the end result would still be 18:2, which doesn't look much better from the perspective of Washington.

Merkel, in any case, is doing all she can to ramp up the pressure on Trump. "The times in which we could completely rely on others are over to a certain extent," she said in her beer tent speech last Sunday.

It shouldn't be underestimated just how bitter it must have been for her to utter this sentence, and how deep her disappointment. Merkel, who grew up in the Soviet sphere of influence, never had much understanding for the anti-Americanism often found in western Germany. U.S. dependability is partly to thank for Eastern Europe's post-1989 freedom.

Merkel has shown a surprising amount of passion for the trans-Atlantic relationship over the years. She came perilously close to openly supporting the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq and enjoyed a personal friendship with George W. Bush, despite the fact that most Germans had little sympathy for the U.S. president. Later, Merkel's response to the NSA's surveillance of her mobile phone was largely stoic and she also didn't react when Trump called her refugee policies "insane."

As such, Merkel's comments last Sunday about her loss of trust in America were eye-opening. It was a completely new tone and Merkel knew that it would generate attention. Indeed, that's what she wanted.

A Clear Message to the U.S.

Her sentence immediately circled the globe and was seen among Trump opponents as proof that the most powerful woman in Europe had lost hope that Trump could be brought to reason.

Prior to speeches to her party, such as the one held last Sunday, she always gets a manuscript from Christian Democratic Union (CDU) headquarters in Berlin, but she herself writes the most decisive passages. The comment about Europe's allies was a clear message to the U.S., but it was also meant for a domestic audience. Her speech marked the launch of her re-election campaign.

Merkel knows that her campaign adversaries from the center-left Social Democrats (SPD) intend to make foreign policy an issue in the election. After all, it has a long history of doing so. Willy Brandt did so well in 1969 and 1972 in part because he called into question the Cold War course that had been charted to that point. Gerhard Schröder managed to win in 2002 in part because of his vociferous rejection of German involvement in the coming Iraq War.

Last Monday, German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel, a senior SPD member, took advantage of a roundtable discussion on migration in the Foreign Ministry to lay into Trump. The largest challenges we currently face, such as climate change, he said, have been made "even larger by the new U.S. isolationism." Those who don't resist such a political course, Gabriel continued, "make themselves complicit." It was a clear shot at the chancellor.

But her speech last Sunday shielded Merkel from possible accusations of abetting Trump, though she nevertheless wants to keep the dialogue going with Washington. Speaking to conservative lawmakers in Berlin on Tuesday, she said that the trans-Atlantic relationship continues to be of "exceptional importance." Nevertheless, she added, differences should not be swept under the rug.

Merkel realized early on just how difficult it would be to work with the new U.S. president, partly because she watched videos of some of his pre-inauguration appearances. Speaking to CDU leaders in December, she said that Trump was extremely serious about his slogan "America First."

The chancellor's image of Trump has shifted since then, but not for the better. The first contacts with the new government in Washington were sobering. When Christoph Heusgen, her foreign policy adviser, met for the first time with Michael Flynn, who was soon to become Trump's short-lived national security adviser, he was shocked by his American counterpart's lack of knowledge.

Shattered Hopes

But there were still grounds for optimism. Early on, Merkel thought that the new U.S. government's naivete might mean that Trump could be influenced. She was hoping to play the role of educator, an approach that initially looked like it might be successful. In a telephone conversation in January, Merkel explained to Trump the situation in Ukraine. She had the impression that he had never before seriously considered the issue and she was able to convince him not to lift the sanctions that had been placed on Russia.

The new president has likewise thus far refrained from moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. He has also left the Iran deal alone and revised initial statements in which he had said that NATO was "obsolete." In the Chancellery, there was hope that Trump could in fact become something like a second-coming of Ronald Reagan.

Those hopes have now been shattered. Because Trump has had difficulty fulfilling many of his campaign promises, he has become even more intransigent. Merkel watched in annoyance as Trump did all he could in Saudi Arabia to avoid upsetting his hosts only to come to the NATO summit and cast public aspersions at his allies. The bad thing about Trump is not that he criticizes partners, says a confidante of Angela Merkel's, but that in contrast to his predecessors, he calls the entire international order into question.

At one point, Merkel took Trump aside in Sicily to speak with him privately about climate protection and the president told her that he would prefer to delay his decision on the Paris Agreement until after the G-20 in July. You can postpone everything, Merkel replied, but it's not helpful. She urged that he make a decision prior to the Hamburg summit.

He has now done so.

To the degree that one can make such a claim, Trump has a rather functional view of Merkel. He wants her to increase defense spending and to reduce Germany's trade surplus with the U.S., even if it is a political impossibility. And he wants Merkel to force other European leaders to do the same, even though Merkel doesn't possess the power to do so.

In Trump's world, there are no allies and no mature relationships, just self-interested countries with short-term interests. History means nothing to Trump; as a hard-nosed real-estate magnate, he is only interested in immediate gains. He cares little for long-term relationships.

Two close advisers to the president contributed a piece to the Wall Street Journal this week that can be seen as something like a "Trump Doctrine." "The world is not a 'global community,'" wrote Gary Cohn and Herbert Raymond McMaster, Trump's economic and security advisers. The subtext is clear: The global order, which the United States helped build, belongs to the past. There are no alliances anymore, just individual interests -- no allies, just competitors. It was a clear signal to America's erstwhile Western allies that they can no longer rely on the United States as a partner.

It's not surprising that Moscow is gleefully scoffing at the losers in Europe. Mariya Sakharova, the Foreign Ministry's brash spokeswoman, gloated openly Tuesday on Vladimir Solovyov's popular Russian talk show.

If Europe is going to have to take its fate into its own hands, as Merkel says, that just shows how different things used to be when the Continent simply followed the marching orders given by Washington, she said. "We always thought that the Europeans had united in the European Union -- but they were really just standing at attention," she sneered to the approving giggles of her host.

The open government gloating is indicative of the mood currently prevailing in the Russian capital. For Vladimir Putin, a dream appears to have come true in recent days; Trump could prove to be a godsend. For some time, Moscow has been trying to drive a wedge between the trans-Atlantic alliance. But now it looks as though the American president is doing that job for him.

In the past, the Americans guaranteed Europe's security with their nuclear and conventional capabilities. Russia would stand to profit the most from a loosening or possible breakup of the trans-Atlantic relationship. If that were to happen, Putin will have been successful in his strategy of undermining the cohesion of liberal Western democracies.

The fact that the process of disintegration would go so fast has surprised even the Russians. "The trans-Atlantic frictions had been obvious for months. But I didn't expect Merkel to say that Europe needs to free itself from its dependency on the United States," says Konstantin Kosachev, who chairs the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Federal Council, the upper chamber of Russia's parliament.

In Brussels, Berlin and many other European capitals, pro-European forces are hoping that Moscow is premature with its celebratory mood. They believe the Trump factor could have the reverse effect and actually serve as a magnet to pull the quarreling Europeans back together.

"We've had enough," says Manfred Weber, the influential German politician who leads the conservative party caucus in the European Parliament. "Despite goodwill, we are at a turning point. We have to seize our own opportunity and show that we are just as prepared to act with our trade policies as we are with defense."

Indeed, the Trump factor appears to be having an aphrodisiac effect on European defense cooperation efforts. What had seemed nearly impossible only a short time ago has now become plausible. France and Germany have long been pushing for closer military cooperation in Europe. The French are interested in doing so to assert their own claim to leadership on the Continent, alongside the Americans. And the Germans are interested in diverting attention from the fact that they have spent years spending too little on their armed forces.

In the past, it had always been the British and the Eastern Europeans who stood in the way of the joint efforts promoted by Germany and France -- for the most part out of fear that an internal European competitor to NATO could result. But Britain's decision to leave the EU also means that it will no longer be able to block such efforts. The Eastern Europeans, meanwhile, who see themselves as being on the front against Russia, have lost faith in Trump's pledges to the alliance.

The government in Berlin isn't the only one taking note of the Estonians' eagerness for progress on defense cooperation once it assumes the rotating six-month presidency of the European Council in July. The country had previously been largely opposed to deeper European defense cooperation.

No one believes that Europe can ensure its future security on its own. Washington's military role is too dominant for that. The U.S. spends two and a half times more on defense each year than all the European NATO member states combined. That's why the unthinkable has always been ignored: That Trump could actually withdraw from NATO. But the climate issue has demonstrated that the unthinkable is not something that Trump shies away from.

Europe's Military Push

The more unpredictable this major ally becomes, the more the Europeans will have to rely on their own military capabilities. A few weeks ago, they agreed in Brussels to create a joint command center that would be responsible in the future for European training missions in Africa and the naval operation Sophia against human-traffickers in the Mediterranean Sea. After lengthy hesitation, even Britain relented and agreed in the end.

Further projects may follow, including a European medical command, joint officer training and a European logistics hub. The French and the Germans also want to create a joint air transport unit. The Dutch have offered to take leadership of a multinational alliance providing air-to-air refueling and transport aircraft.

On Wednesday, the European Commission plans to present a paper playing out a number of scenarios of what stronger military cooperation in the European Union might look like in 2025, if the EU member states move to more closely coordinate their military activities. Under the

scenarios, EU member states would more closely coordinate their military planning and they would also conduct joint exercises on a regular basis.

Even though there is an urgent need for it, the most difficult area of cooperation seems to be that of joint arms procurement. "There are 178 different weapon systems in the EU, compared to 30 in the U.S.," says European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. The result is that Europeans achieve only 15 percent of the efficiency enjoyed by the Americans with their defense spending.

The Germans and the French, especially, would like to cooperate more closely in this area and develop drones, tanks and combat helicopters together. But previous experience has been sobering. The negotiations are taking an eternity and no agreement is in sight.

The EU is not setting out to challenge the U.S. on security policy -- it merely wants to become less dependent on the Americans, which is something Washington might support as well.

Trade, on the other hand, could be the subject of major conflicts. German Economics Minister Brigitte Zypries and her senior deputy Matthias Machnig experienced firsthand during a trip to the American capital last week, just how big the chasm is on trade issues. Both politicians, members of the center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD), were shocked after their talks with Republican members of Congress and the president's trade advisers.

"Some of the Americans we met with have a serious misjudgment about the economy," Machnig reports. "They believe that the high trade deficit the U.S. has with other countries is largely the product of bad trade deals." They claim that they are constantly getting defeated in the World Trade Organization's (WTO) courts. "But the Americans use the WTO system just like every other country to address trade disputes. And they are often successful." With Trump, he says, the U.S. is already well on its way to self-isolation.

An Opportunity for Europe?

What Trump might call a disaster, could actually present a major opportunity for Europe. The

EU could offer an alternative to trading partners feeling snubbed by the Americans. That's one reason that negotiations have been accelerated for free trade agreements between the EU and Japan and the Mercosur countries of South America. EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström herself even personally attacked Trump during her recent visit to Mexico. "Now is the time to build bridges, not walls," she said.

In addition to trade, the EU also wants to fill the vacuum being left behind by the United States on climate protection. "It is Europe's duty to say: That's not how it works," EU Commission President Juncker said on Wednesday in Berlin. "The Americans can't just leave the climate protection agreement. Mr. Trump believes that because he doesn't get close enough to the dossiers to fully understand them."

Juncker says it will take three to four years for the United States to withdraw from the agreement. "We tried to explain that to Mr. Trump in Taormina in clear German sentences. It seems our attempt failed, but the law is the law and it must be obeyed." He also said that "not everything which is law and not everything in international agreements is fake news."

In addition to defense, trade and climate protection, there's a fourth area where the Trump factor could generate some movement. Emancipation from America can only succeed if a way can be found to prevent the common currency from once again becoming the plaything of international financial investors. The introduction of the euro was intended as the crown achievement of the European peace project, but it instead led to massive discord on the Continent during the crisis.

In response, there are numerous proposals on the table for eliminating the design flaws in the currency union. At the core is the question of balancing out the interests of the Northern and Southern European countries. Members in Northern Europe are pushing for fiscal discipline and business innovation, whereas Southern Europe wants to be able to use government borrowing to spur growth if need be.

On Wednesday, the European Commission presented a reflection paper on the future of the euro. Suddenly, many proposals no longer sounded as unrealistic as they did only a few months ago: that of the creation of a post for an EU finance minister and Eurogroup head and a eurozone treasury.

Macron's Momentum

Much of the recent momentum is attributable to one man: new French President Macron. If he makes good on his pledges and forges ahead with economic reforms in his country, it would make it increasingly difficult for Germany to balk at France's ideas for the eurozone. Merkel has long hinted as much by saying she would be prepared to make the necessary changes to the European treaties. "We can give the whole situation a new dynamic," Merkel said during Macron's recent visit to Berlin.

Whether Europe can succeed in breaking free from the United States will ultimately hinge on Merkel and Macron working together. If Merkel wins the election in September, she will have, together with the new French president, the unique opportunity to give Europe the international credibility that it now lacks, says American historian Anne Applebaum. She says Europe should now develop its own foreign policy, its own security and possibly even its own army. "Shouldn't a European navy blockade the Libyan coast? Shouldn't Europeans be thinking about ending the war in Syria? Shouldn't Europe have a joint strategy to push back against Russian disinformation? All of these things are possible, but only if Europe's political leaders start working on them now."

The idea that the Europeans could no longer primarily rely "on others," that they have to become more active on their own, was Macron's position even before his election. He wants to create greater capacity for the EU to act, and he wants to adapt its institutions to the new challenges. That's one reason he appointed Sylvie Goulard, a longtime member of the European Parliament who speaks perfect German, as his defense minister.

"Whether we loudly proclaim our concerns as Europeans or not, the main thing is making it more capable of acting," says one French diplomat. The French share Merkel's view that Trump's Washington is no longer a reliable partner. Macron's statement before the G-7 that he sees Trump as a "partner" was nothing more than lip service. And French diplomats were appalled by how poorly prepared the Americans were in both Brussels and at the G-7 summit in Taormina.

Still, it's unlikely that Macron, who has so far proven himself to be quite skillful with mind games, will seek an open conflict with Trump. A trans-Atlantic clash isn't in his interests. Macron firmly believes in his own persuasiveness, his charm and his seductiveness. At first, he will try to do everything he can to steer Trump where he wants him to go.

And Angela Merkel may find all the things in Macron that she likely sought in vain in his predecessor. Macron could become a reliable and strong partner for Germany. Indeed, there has never before been a French government with as many members possessing deep knowledge of Germany as this one.

Can Merkel Forge Alliance Against Trump?

Will the German chancellor succeed in forging alliances against Donald Trump on the important disputes? It won't be easy. In terms of climate protection, there is a chance. But it's much less likely on trade and defense. When it comes to burden sharing within NATO, Trump isn't alone in his views. And in terms of Germany's trade surplus, it isn't clear who will face isolation.

Merkel is now convinced that Europe must take its fate into its own hands. At the same time, Germany also can't be totally certain who its allies are. When Trump began attacking the Germans behind closed doors in Brussels, it was Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, above all, who sprung to the chancellor's defense. Participants say it was alarming how many NATO members kissed the ground before Trump -- and not just the usual suspects from Eastern Europe.

Merkel has many fans. She is the star among liberals around the world. The leftist American press had already begun declaring her the new leader of the free world even before Trump's election. In an opinion piece this week, Britain's Guardian heaped praise on Merkel, noting that "her statesmanship, her ease, her ability to broker deals and relationships is ever more impressive." But her glorification in the press will do little to help in her test of strength with the world's most powerful man.

And what about China? The major Asian power is standing in the wings, ready to take over the role of the world's leading nation, which America appears to be abandoning. At the World Economic Forum in Davos in January, President Xi Jinping sought to present himself as the most powerful advocate of global free trade. Now China also wants to become the leading nation when it comes to climate protection. But officials in Merkel's Chancellery aren't harboring many illusions when it comes to the new partner.

At moments when nothing else helps, Merkel these days, it is said, takes a look at her appointment calendar -- more specifically at June 17. That Saturday, Merkel plans to fly to Rome, where the pope is hosting a private reception for Protestants. The chancellor wants to present Pope Francis with the goals of her G-20 summit in Hamburg in July, on issues like migration and women's rights, for example. It doesn't require much imagination to believe that the two are on the same page when it comes to Trump.

The differences of opinion between the U.S. president and the head of the Catholic Church are no secret. In contrast to Trump, Pope Francis has called for the protection of God's creation and for the world to battle climate change. "It is inconceivable that the pope did not discuss climate change in his conversation with Trump," says one person close to the Vatican who has intimate knowledge of Francis' thinking. But it doesn't appear to have done anything to help.

By Christian Esch, Konstantin von Hammerstein, Julia Amalia Heyer, Christiane Hoffmann, Horand Knaup, Peter Müller, Ralf Neukirch, René Pfister, Christoph Scheuermann, Christoph Schult, Samiha Shafy and Gerald Traufetter

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 8/28/2017 4:31:06 PM
Subject: Delightful put down by Cork Hayden of Scientific American piece on alternative energy

<https://wattsupwiththat.com/2017/08/27/scientific-american-sokalized/>

Joe

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From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Sun 7/23/2017 4:53:34 PM
Subject: Tesla battery, subsidy and sustainability fantasies

Great stuff here from Paul Driessen.

Joe

Begin forwarded message:

On Saturday, July 22, 2017, 11:23 PM, Paul Driessen [Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy](#) wrote:

Tesla sales have plummeted to near zero in Hong Kong and Denmark, as generous subsidies evaporated. Its \$7,500-per-car federal rebate (taxpayer subsidy) is about to start its death spiral. So California is halfway toward enacting legislation that would provide \$3 billion in state point-of-sale rebates: as much as \$30,000 or even \$40,000 per car. The legislature apparently wants to continue ensuring that **all** families help perpetuate programs that thus far have transferred 90% of all electric car subsidies to the wealthiest 20% of families.

Meanwhile, ardent renewable energy aficionados insist that the key to a wind and solar future is battery backup systems ... which are just around the corner. Not so fast, says technology guru Mark Mills. Storing 12 hours worth of household and business electricity demand per day, plus charging up 1.4 billion currently gasoline-powered vehicles, would require 1,250 years of production from every existing lithium battery factory worldwide. It's not going to happen, he says. And that's just the beginning of the subsidy and sustainability fantasies we must deal with.

Thank you for posting my article, quoting from it, and forwarding it to your friends and colleagues.

Best regards,

Paul

Tesla battery, subsidy and sustainability fantasies

More subsidies from exhausted California taxpayers cannot compensate for hard

realities

Paul Driessen

The first justification was that internal combustion engines polluted too much. But emissions steadily declined, and today's cars emit about 3% of what their predecessors did. Then it was oil imports: electric vehicles (EVs) would reduce foreign dependency and balance of trade deficits. Bountiful oil and natural gas supplies from America's hydraulic fracturing revolution finally eliminated that as an argument.

Now the focus is on climate change. Every EV sale will help prevent assumed and asserted manmade temperature, climate and weather disasters, we're told – even if their total sales represented less than 1% of all U.S. car and light truck sales in 2016 (Tesla sold 47,184 of the 17,557,955 vehicles sold nationwide last year), and plug-in EVs account for barely 0.15% of 1.4 billion vehicles on the road worldwide.

In recent months, Tesla sales plunged to nearly zero in Hong Kong and Denmark, as huge government subsidies were eliminated. Now Tesla's U.S. subsidies face extinction. Once its cumulative sales since 2009 reach 200,000 vehicles in the next few months, federal tax rebates will plunge from \$7,500 per car to zero over an 18-month period. The same thing will happen to other EV companies that reach 200,000.

Subsidies clearly drive sales for EVs, which are often double the cost of comparable gasoline-powered vehicles. Free charging stations, and access to HOV lanes for plug-ins with only the driver, further sweeten the deal. For those who can afford the entry fee, the ride is smooth indeed. In fact, a 2015 study found, the richest 20% of Americans received 90% of hundreds of millions in taxpayer EV subsidies.

Where were all the government “offices of environmental justice” when this was happening? How much must we subsidize our wealthiest families, to save us from manmade planetary disasters that exist only in Al Gore movies and alarmist computer models?

Perhaps recognizing the reverse Robin Hood injustice – or how unsustainable free EV stations are for cash-strapped cities – Palo Alto (where Tesla Motors is headquartered) announced that it will charge 23 cents per kWh to charge plug-in vehicles in city parking garages. Others communities and states may also reduce their rebates, HOV access and free charging, further reducing incentives to purchase pricey EVs.

Meanwhile, Lyft and Uber are also decreasing the justification for shelling out \$35,000 to \$115,000 or even \$980,000 for an electric car that gets very limited mileage per charge. Long excursions still need internal combustion engines or long layovers every few hundred miles to recharge EV batteries.

Intent on advancing its renewable energy and climate change agenda, the California legislature recently enacted a new cap-and-trade law that will generate revenues for Tesla and the “bullet train to nowhere,” by increasing hidden taxes on motor fuels, electricity and

consumer products – with the state’s poor, minority and working class families again being hit hardest. State legislators are also close to passing a [\\$3-billion EV subsidy program](#), primarily to replace the \$7,500 federal rebate that Tesla could soon lose. Electric vehicle buyers could soon receive up to \$40,000 for buying Tesla’s most expensive models! Coal-billionaire and California gubernatorial hopeful Tom Steyer vigorously supports the new subsidy

We can also expect a battle royale over extending the federal EV subsidy beyond 200,000 vehicles – demonstrating once again that lobbyists are now far more important to bottom lines than engineers, especially when lobbyists can channel enormous contributions to politicians’ reelection campaigns.

As U.S. government agencies prepare to reassess climate change science, models and disaster predictions, it’s a good time to reexamine claims made about all the utopian electric vehicle and renewable energy forecasts, expanding on the [land and raw material issues](#) I raised in a previous article.

In his *Forbes* article on [Battery Derangement Syndrome](#), energy and technology analyst Mark P. Mills notes that Tesla is also getting \$1 billion in taxpayer subsidies to build a huge \$5-billion lithium battery factory in Nevada. Batteries, it’s often claimed, can soon replace fossil fuels for backing up expensive, intermittent, unreliable, unpredictable wind and solar power. Mills explains why this is ... deranged.

In an entire year, all the existing lithium battery factories in the world combined manufacture only enough capacity to store 100 billion Watt-hours (Wh) of electricity. But the USA alone uses 100 times this capacity: more than 10,000 billion Wh per day. Worldwide, humanity uses over 50,000 billion Wh daily.

Focusing on solar power, Mills notes, that means storing electricity for 12 hours a day – to power homes and businesses around the globe for the 12 hours per day that photovoltaic systems will generate power on sunny days in the 100% solar world of the utopian future – would require *25,000 billion Watt-hours* of battery power (ignoring future electricity needs to recharge electric vehicle batteries).

Replacing the gasoline in the tanks of 1.4 billion vehicles worldwide with electric power would require *another 100 billion Watt-hours*. That brings total global demand to *well over 125,000 billion Wh* of storage. That means it would take 1,250 years of production from every existing lithium battery factory worldwide to meet this combined demand. Or we would have to build 1,250 times more factories. Or we could build batteries that are 10 to 100 times more powerful and efficient than what we have today.

Says Mills, the constraints of real world physics on battery storage mean this latter option will not happen.

In a world where we are also supposed to ban nuclear (and most hydroelectric) power, the very notion of eliminating the 80% of all global energy that comes from oil, natural gas and coal – replacing it with wind, solar and biofuel power – is fundamentally absurd. Can you

imagine what would happen when the power goes off and on repeatedly while we are smelting iron, copper, aluminum, cobalt or lithium ores ... forging or casting metals into components ... or running complex fabrication and assembly lines?

In the sustainability arena, has anyone calculated how much lithium, cobalt and other metals would be required to manufacture all those batteries? Where they would be mined – with nearly all the best U.S. metal prospects off limits to exploration and production, and radical environmentalists increasingly rallying to block mining projects overseas? The mines would have to be enormous, and operated by huge corporate consortiums. Will anti-corporate activists on our campuses suddenly have a change of heart?

Will homes, neighborhoods and communities have the electrical service (200 amperes or more per home) to handle all the lighting, computing, entertainment, air conditioning, medical equipment and other requirements of modern living – AND the power required to charge all the predicted electric vehicles? What will it cost to upgrade neighborhood power grids, and home and commercial electrical systems?

Lithium batteries and their component metals pose unique fire and explosion risks. What safeguards will be established to minimize those dangers, in battery factories, homes and public parking garages?

Some factories and batteries will invariably be poorly built, handled or maintained. Some will invariably malfunction – causing potentially catastrophic explosions. The bigger the factory or battery, the bigger the cataclysm. Will we apply the same precautionary principles to them as more rabid environmentalists insist on applying to drilling, fracking, pipelines, refineries, factories, dams and nuclear power plants?

What is the life expectancy of batteries, compared to engines in gasoline-powered cars? Two or three times shorter? What does it cost to replace battery packs compared to engines? Two to three times as much? What is the true overall cost of owning an EV? Four to six times higher than a gasoline car? How will we dispose of or recycle millions or billions of batteries and their dangerous, toxic components?

Is the real goal of all this crony-corporatist wind, solar and battery enthusiasm – and anti-fossil fuel activism – to slash living standards in industrialized nations, and ensure that impoverished nations are able to improve their health and living conditions only marginally?

We would do well to raise – and answer – these and other essential questions now, before we let activists, journalists, legislators and regulators con us into adopting more of their utopian, “planet-saving” ideas.

Paul Driessen is senior policy analyst for the Committee For A Constructive Tomorrow (www.CFACT.org) and author of *Eco-Imperialism: Green power - Black death*.

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Sun 8/27/2017 5:43:04 PM
Subject: Pruitt on Red Team and endangerment finding

FYI:

“Pruitt told about 30 people attending a board meeting of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity yesterday morning that he’s establishing a “specific process” to review climate science, the administration official said. [Bob] Murray [of Murray Energy] and two other people in the room interpreted Pruitt as saying he would challenge the endangerment finding.”

<http://www.sunburynews.com/news/8485/epa-pruitt-will-launch-program-to-critique-climate-science>

Joe

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From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 1:49:07 PM
Subject: Nils-Axel Morner press release re sea level rise
[PRESS RELEASE.docx](#)
[PRESS RELEASE.pdf](#)

Friends,

Nils-Axel Morner prepared the attached news release in hopes of influencing coverage of the [Ocean Conference](#) starting today at United Nations Headquarter in New York. His bio and links to presentations at ICCCs can be found here:

<http://climateconferences.heartland.org/nils-axel-morner/>

He can be contacted at Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy.

Joe

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PRESS RELEASE

United Nations is holding a conference June 5-9 on
Our Oceans – Our Future

It is hosted by the Governments of Sweden and Fiji
But what can they say? & And with what authority?

What they claim is not founder in evidence-based facts
only in models and Paris-agreement-overenthusiasm

– o – O – o –

Sea Level is Not Rising in the Fiji Islands nor in Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Kiribati and the Indian Ocean

*The New Fiji Sea Level Project** has just finished its main report. The records obtained in the field and radiocarbon dates obtained are condensed into a sea level curve of the Yasawa Islands for the last 500 years (Fig. 56). This curve also applies for most of the others islands of the Fiji nation. It is a new sea level curve of Fiji, recording the regional changes in eustatic sea level. It is composed of 6 elements:

- A +70 cm level in the 16th and 17th centuries
- A -100 cm low level in the 18th century
- A +30 cm peak in early 19th century
- Stable sea level condition during the last 150 years
- Coral death in the late 20th century, due to a 10-20 cm sea level lowering or maybe due to severe coral bleaching at the 1998 ENSO event
- Quite stable sea level conditions in, at least, the last 15-20 years with forced coral growth into mini-atolls

In the last 60 years coral reefs died due to a sea level lowering of about 10-20 cm (sign mark in Fig. 56) or due to severe coral bleaching at the 1998 ENSO event (red arrow in Fig. 56). After that, very stable sea level conditions must have prevailed in order to force corals at several sites to grow laterally into mini-atolls (Fig. 52).

Our documentation (Fig. 56) implies that there is a total lack of signs indicating a present rise in sea level; on the contrary, our results indicate strict sea level stability. Therefore, it should free low-laying coasts and islands from the condemnation to become flooded in the near future.

*Nils-Axel Mörner (morner@pog.nu, int46-87171867) and Pamela Matlack-Klein

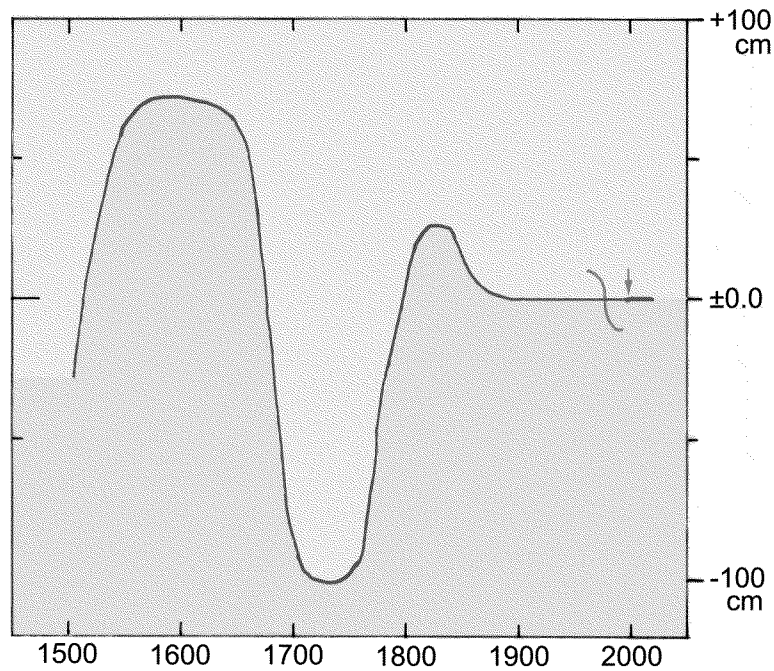


Fig. 56. The new sea level curve of the last 500 years in Fiji, with special reference to Yasawa Islands.



Fig. 52. A mini-atoll with its surface 40 cm below sea level at present low-tide level (above). The same mini-atoll at high-tide level (below) with red dot marking for C14-date "younger than 1955". The lateral growth is controlled by stable depth conditions with respect to the low-tide level (i.e. 40 cm).

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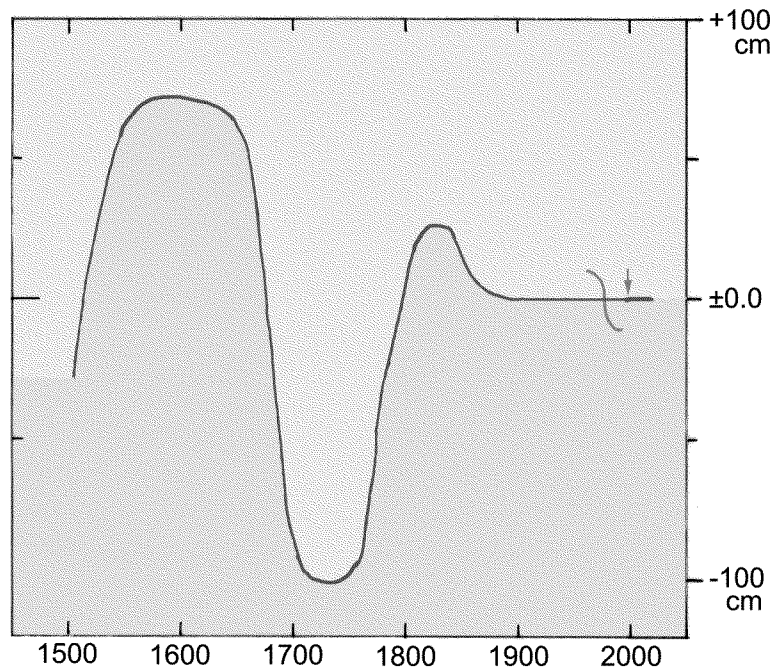


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To: Jim Lakely[JLakely@heartland.org]
From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Fri 7/21/2017 9:09:29 PM
Subject: Hansen: World's young face \$535 trillion bill for climate

Willie sends this:

<https://www.earth-syst-dynam.net/8/577/2017/esd-8-577-2017.pdf>

and the article below. Some strong rebuttals of this utter garbage would be appreciated, posted, published, and promoted...

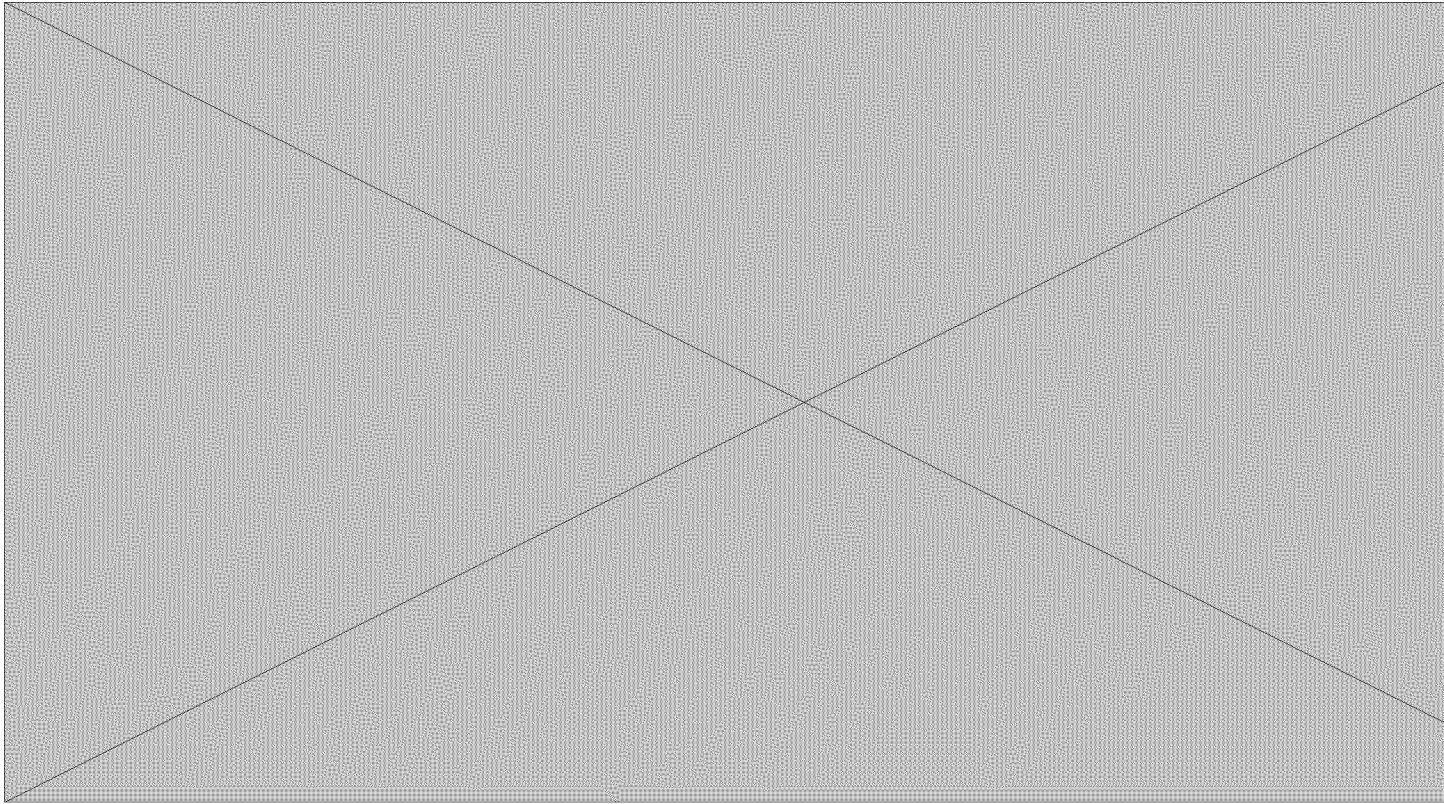
Joe

=====

<http://climatenewsnetwork.net/22709-2/?platform=hootsuite>

World's young face \$535 trillion bill for climate

July 19, 2017, by Tim Radford



New York, September 2014: Young people protest against climate change.
Image: By Thomas Good via Wikimedia Commons

The next generation will have to pay a \$535 trillion bill to tackle climate change, relying on unproven and speculative technology.

LONDON, 19 July, 2017 – One of the world’s most famous climate scientists has just calculated the financial burden that tomorrow’s young citizens will face to keep the globe at a habitable temperature and contain global warming and climate change – a \$535 trillion bill.

And much of that will go on expensive technologies engineered to suck 1,000 billion metric tons of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide from the air by the year 2100.

Of course, if humans started to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 6% a year right now, the end of the century challenge would be to take 150 billion tonnes from the atmosphere, and most of this could be achieved simply by better forest and agricultural management, according to a new study in the journal Earth System Dynamics.

The study, authored by researchers from the US, France, China, the United Kingdom and Australia, rests on two arguments.

Slow start

One is that although the world's nations vowed in Paris in 2015 to contain global warming by 2100 to “well below” 2°C relative to the average global temperatures for most of the planet's history since the last Ice Age, concerted international action has been slow to start. One nation – the US – has already announced that it will withdraw from the Paris Agreement.

The other argument is that, even if humans do in the decades to come rise to the challenge, it could be too late: by then greenhouse gas concentrations could have reached a level in the atmosphere that would in the long run condemn the world to sea level rises of several metres, and a succession of economic and humanitarian disasters.

“Continued high fossil fuel emissions would saddle young people with a massive, expensive cleanup problem and growing deleterious climate impacts, which should provide incentive and obligation for governments to alter energy policies without further delay,” says James Hansen, of the Columbia University Earth Institute in the US, who led the study.

Professor Hansen, as director of the US space agency Nasa's Institute for Space Studies, made global headlines in 1988, during a severe drought and heatwave on the North American continent, when he told a Washington senate committee: “It's time to stop waffling so much and say the evidence is pretty strong that the greenhouse effect is here.”

Legal testimony

With that one sentence, he made climate science an enduring item on the political agenda. But the latest study is also part of a legal argument. It is in effect testimony in a lawsuit called Juliana et al vs the United States.

This case began under the last US administration. However, the US president, Donald Trump, who has dismissed the evidence of climate change as a “hoax”, has now been named in the case.

Professor Hansen has argued that even the ambitions of the historic Paris Accord will not be enough to avert disaster and displacement for millions. The benchmark for geologically recent warming levels was set 115,000 years ago, during a period between two Ice Ages, known to geologists as the Eemian.

“We show that a target of limiting global warming to no more than +2°C relative to pre-industrial levels is not sufficient, as +2°C would be warmer than the Eemian period, when sea level reached plus 6-9 metres relative to today,” Professor Hansen said.

Lower CO₂

At the heart of such arguments are calculations about imponderables that climatologists like to call the carbon budget and climate sensitivity. The first of these concerns the terrestrial and oceanic processes that release greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and then absorb them, and the second is a calculation about what a change in carbon dioxide levels really means for average global temperatures.

For most of human history, CO₂ levels were around 280 parts per million. In the last two years they have reached 400 ppm, as a response to two centuries of fossil fuel combustion, and average global temperatures have risen by almost 1°C, with a record reading in 2016 of 1.3°C.

Professor Hansen and his colleagues want to see these atmospheric CO₂ levels lowered to 350 ppm, to bring global temperature rise down to no more than a rise of 1°C later this century.

If the world's nations can co-operate to do that, then most of the hard work to remove the carbon dioxide surplus from the air could be left to the world's great forests.

“It is apparent that governments are leaving this problem on the shoulders of young people. This will not be easy or inexpensive”

However, if carbon emissions go on growing at 2% a year (and during this century, they have grown faster), then those who are children now would have to commit to a costly technological answer based on the belief that carbon dioxide can be captured, compressed and stored deep underground.

Nobody knows how to do this on any significant scale. And if it could be done, it would be expensive: an estimated €500 trillion, or US\$535 trillion.

“It is apparent that governments are leaving this problem on the shoulders of young people. This will not be easy or inexpensive,” says Hansen.

“We wanted to quantify the burden that is being left for young people, to support not only the legal case against the US government, but also many other cases that can be brought against other governments.” – *Climate News Network*

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Fri 8/25/2017 5:35:37 PM
Subject: Only 28% of Americans Think Climate Scientists Really Understand Climate Change
[Pages from Pew 2016 survey public don't trust one page summary.pdf](#)

On Monday I sent out the email, below, highlighting one of Ballotpedia's "Scott Rasmussen's Number of the Day" emails. I thought it was reporting new survey research, but in fact it was reporting some numbers from an October 2016 Pew survey. Sorry about that. However, I dug into that survey a bit... I can't recall if we noticed it and reported it when it first came out,. Attached is a very cool one-page summary of the survey results. Be sure to print it out in color.

Here are the greatest hits:

* Only 27% say they believe "almost all climate scientists agree that human behavior is mostly responsible for climate change." That's a plain statement about consensus, and it's great news for the truth.

* Only 33% of respondents believe "climate scientists understand very well whether climate change is occurring," only 28% believe they understand the "causes of climate change" very well, and only 19% believe they understand "the best ways to address climate change" very well. This is all great news too, because even if the public believed there was a consensus ... which they don't ... they still wouldn't RESPECT the consensus because they realize climate scientists often don't know what they are talking about.

* Why so little trust in climate scientists? Most folks getting this email can answer that, but the survey offers insight into that, too. Only 32% of respondents believe "climate scientists research findings are influenced by the best available scientific evidence most of the time." If not the best available evidence, then what? 23% believe they are influenced by "concern for the best interests of the public," 36% by the "scientists' desire to advance their careers," 27% by "scientists' own political leanings," and 26% by "researchers' desire to help their industries."

The loss of respect for scientists is one of the great casualties of the left's capture of universities in recent decades. It is likely to hurt the progress of science, perhaps for

decades to come. The public realizes this has happened, or at least understands it is one of the reasons why "climate scientists" cannot be trusted to tell them the whole truth, despite all the propaganda trying to convince them otherwise.

Joe

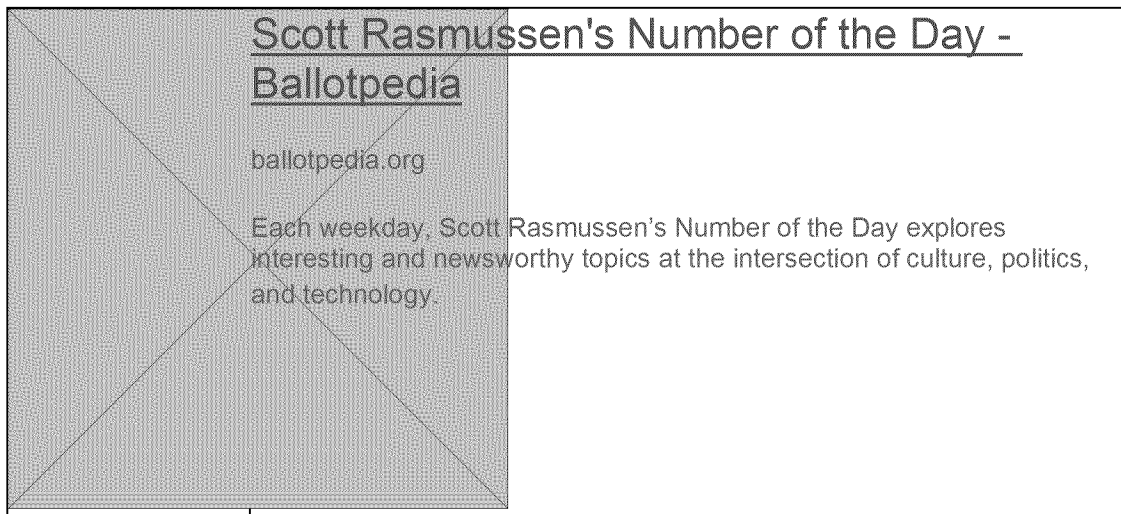
From: Joseph Bast <JBast@heartland.org>
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2017 3:38 PM
Subject: Wow: Only 28% of Americans Think Climate Scientists Really Understand Climate Change

... and fewer than 20% of people responding to this survey believe climate scientists know how we should address the issue. The American people are way smarter than the media, Hollywood, most academics, and every Democrat in the country.

I think I can hear Al Gore weeping...

Joe

https://ballotpedia.org/Scott_Rasmussen%27s_Number_of_the_Day



Scott Rasmussen's Number of the Day

By [Scott Rasmussen](#)

August 21, 2017: Twenty-eight percent (28%) of Americans think that climate scientists understand the causes of global climate change “very well.” A Pew Research study found that only 19% believe that the climate scientists have a very good understanding of the best ways to address the issue.^[1]

In general, the study found that Americans trust climate scientists more than politicians on the topic. Two-thirds (67%) believe scientists should play a major role in addressing policy issues on the matter. Most (56%) also believe that energy industry leaders (56%) and the general public (56%) should have a major say in such policy topics.

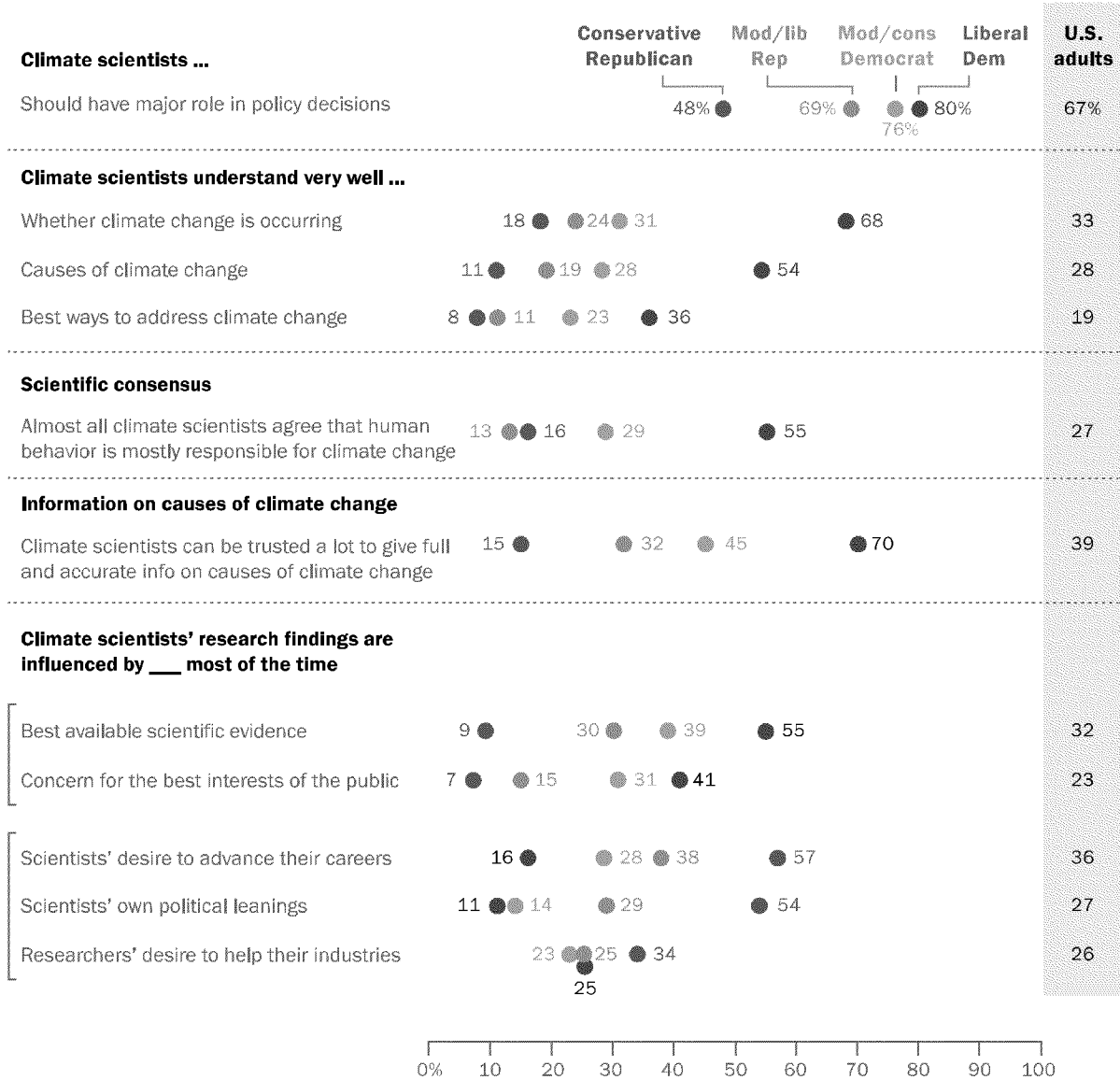
The Pew study, however, also found that people believe there are differences of opinion among the climate scientists. Only 27% believe that there is a consensus on the issue and that just about all climate scientists believe human behavior is mostly responsible for global climate change. Another 35% think more than half hold this view.

The survey also explored the degree of trust and confidence in those researching climate science. Thirty-six percent (36%) believe that, most of the time, scientists’ research findings are motivated by a desire to advance their own careers. Only 32% say that they mostly rely on the best scientific evidence. Twenty-seven percent (27%) believe that political views of the scientists generally influence their work.

Liberal Democrats tend to express high levels of confidence in the climate scientists and their motives. Conservative Republicans are often quite skeptical. Most other Americans have mixed views.

Trust in climate scientists is low among Republicans; considerably higher among liberal Democrats

% of U.S. adults in each group who say the following about climate scientists



Note: Republicans and Democrats include independents and other non-partisans who "lean" toward the parties. Respondents who do not lean toward a political party and other responses on each question are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted May 10-June 6, 2016.

"The Politics of Climate"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 12:57:40 PM
Subject: TRCS Letter to President Trump Posted to website

The Right Climate Stuff, a group of retired NASA scientists and engineers, has posted an open [Letter to The Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States \(May 26, 2017\)](#) on its website at <http://www.therightclimatestuff.com/> along with its earlier (November 20, 2016) report, [RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TRUMP TRANSITION TEAM INVESTIGATING ACTIONS TO TAKE AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY \(EPA\) Nov 30, 2016 Harold Doiron](#). The letter and report can be found under the tabs [TRCS Reports](#) and also [Economic and Political Considerations](#).

For more information, contact Jim Peacock jim@seadiver.com, TRCS Research Team Member and Webmaster, and visit <http://www.therightclimatestuff.com/>

Joe

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From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Wed 7/5/2017 7:18:08 PM
Subject: Justin Haskins dissects NRDC claims at the Blaze

Nice piece:

<http://www.theblaze.com/news/2017/07/02/left-wing-climate-report-claims-trumps-policies-will-kill-millions-but-facts-tell-a-different-story/>

Joe

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From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Fri 6/2/2017 9:28:07 PM
Subject: H. Sterling Burnett and Justin Haskins on the front page of Fox News

<http://www.foxnews.com/opinion/2017/06/01/trumps-paris-climate-decision-should-be-celebrated-by-democrats-republicans-and-independents.html>

Fox News
6/2/17

Trump's Paris Climate Decision Should be Celebrated by Democrats, Republicans and Independents

By: H. Sterling Burnett and Justin Haskins, the Heartland Institute

When the Paris climate agreement was signed in April 2016, it was touted by the Obama administration and a vast array of its climate-alarmist proponents as a supreme victory for the global environmental movement. Now, a little more than a year later, the agreement that had effectively been in the works for nearly a decade in one form or another is dead, and with it, much of President Barack Obama's climate-change legacy.

Americans of every stripe should celebrate the Paris agreement's demise, for it represents a stunning victory for taxpayers and middle- and lower-income families and the elevation of science over irrational fears about the future of Earth's climate.

The Paris climate agreement required the United States to cut its carbon dioxide emissions by 28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025. To meet this target, the United States would have had to reduce its emissions by such a radical extent that virtually every aspect of American life would have been negatively impacted.

Mandates would have forced the closure of many of the least-expensive power plants nationwide, raising energy prices at a time of tepid economic growth and sky-high deficits. Manufacturers, domestic energy producers, and countless related industries would have been driven out of business or forced to significantly scale back their operations while taxpayer-subsidized, inefficient, high-cost renewable-energy industries thrived—all at the expense of everyday Americans.

Under the Paris agreement, major economic and geopolitical competitors—including China, India, and Russia—would have been allowed to grow their low-cost carbon dioxide emissions while the United States would have been forced to implement draconian cuts, making their economies comparatively more attractive to corporations looking to slash costs and significantly reducing Americans’ ability to compete in an increasingly global marketplace.

Despite the Paris agreement’s immense costs, the treaty’s proponents insist it is a necessary step forward in the alleged battle against human-caused climate change. But even the U.N. Environment Programme, a noted climate alarmist agency, admitted on its own website the treaty would deliver no meaningful environmental improvements.

According to the United Nations’ post-Paris analysis, if all the parties to the agreement were to meet their promised emissions goals, the Paris treaty would result in less than half the greenhouse gas cuts required to halt temperatures at an upper limit of 2 degrees Celsius. Even if one believes human greenhouse gas emissions are driving dangerous climate change—and we think the best science shows they aren’t—the Paris agreement would not have prevented one iota of rising temperatures, sea levels, or instances of extreme weather.

Climate alarmists, including some within the White House, have told the president any rollback of the Paris agreement would have detrimental political consequences for the president. Thankfully, Trump was not swayed by these empty threats. There was absolutely no political upside for Trump to reverse course on his campaign promise to exit the Paris agreement. Had he done so, left-wing environmentalists would not have suddenly fallen in love with Trump, and the “swamp” Republican establishment wouldn’t have warmly embraced him either.

However, what would have unquestionably occurred had Trump kept the Paris treaty alive is there would have been a tidal wave of criticism from climate skeptics and working class Americans, turning some of the president’s closest allies into his fiercest critics.

By rejecting climate alarmists’ sky-is-falling political fear mongering, Trump adamantly declared he isn’t interested in being bullied by the anti-science, redistributionist zealots on the left. Instead, Trump is standing alongside entrepreneurs, business owners, and

working American families, many of whom voted for Trump in November, in declaring with one voice that U.S. climate and energy policies ought to put America first.

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Fri 8/25/2017 5:08:27 PM
Subject: Subsistence, not sea level rise, responsible for Chesapeake Bay water intrusion
[Chesapeake Bay Water Intrusion, 8-17.pdf](#)

By our friend, Roger Bezdek:

Abstract

Sea level rise due to climate change is a contentious issue with profound geographic and economic implications. One region in the USA identified as being

particularly susceptible to sea level rise is the Chesapeake Bay region, and it has been estimated that by the end of the century Norfolk, Virginia could experience sea level rise of 0.75 meters to more than 2.1 meters. Water intrusion is a serious problem in much of the Chesapeake Bay region. The question addressed here is whether this water intrusion is the result of climate-induced sea level rise or is being caused by other factors. Our findings indicate that

the water intrusion problems in the region are due not to “sea level rise”, but primarily to land subsidence due to groundwater depletion and, to a lesser extent, subsidence from glacial isostatic adjustment. We conclude that water intrusion will thus continue even if sea levels decline. These findings are critical because the water intrusion problems in the Chesapeake Bay—and elsewhere— cannot be successfully solved unless their causes are correctly identified and appropriate remedies are devised. For the Chesapeake Bay region, the required remedy is the reversal of groundwater withdrawal rates, which has been used successfully elsewhere in the USA and other nations to solve water intrusion problems.

Joe

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Water Intrusion in the Chesapeake Bay Region: Is It Caused by Climate-Induced Sea Level Rise?

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Open Access

Abstract

Sea level rise due to climate change is a contentious issue with profound geographic and economic implications. One region in the USA identified as being particularly susceptible to sea level rise is the Chesapeake Bay region, and it has been estimated that by the end of the century Norfolk, Virginia could experience sea level rise of 0.75 meters to more than 2.1 meters. Water intrusion is a serious problem in much of the Chesapeake Bay region. The question addressed here is whether this water intrusion is the result of climate-induced sea level rise or is being caused by other factors. Our findings indicate that the water intrusion problems in the region are due not to “sea level rise”, but primarily to land subsidence due to groundwater depletion and, to a lesser extent, subsidence from glacial isostatic adjustment. We conclude that water intrusion will thus continue even if sea levels decline. These findings are critical because the water intrusion problems in the Chesapeake Bay—and elsewhere—cannot be successfully solved unless their causes are correctly identified and appropriate remedies are devised. For the Chesapeake Bay region, the required remedy is the reversal of groundwater withdrawal rates, which has been used successfully elsewhere in the USA and other nations to solve water intrusion problems.

Keywords

Sea Level Rise, Climate Change, Global Warming, Water Intrusion, Chesapeake Bay, Climate Change Mitigation

1. Introduction

Numerous studies contend that there are serious dangers and risks to many U.S. regions from anthropogenic global warming (AGW), and the Southeast region is identified as likely to be impacted the most severely. For example, recent reports

warned that sea level rise seriously threatens the Southeast's coastal infrastructure, and contended that there was a significant risk to this region from sea level rise [1]. Thus, "On our current path, by mid-century, mean sea level at Norfolk, Virginia—home to the USA's largest naval base—will likely rise between 0.33 meters and 0.52 meters, and will rise 0.75 meters to 1.34 meters by the end of century. However, there is a 1-in-100 chance that Norfolk could see sea level rise of more than 2.2 meters by the end of the century." [2] This is illustrated in Figure 1. However, these were projected values with a large range of uncertainties and depended strongly on what climate-model outputs were employed for the projection. Here we examine this issue in detail, and we assess whether the water intrusion problems in the Norfolk, Virginia region are the result of AGW-induced sea level rise or are being caused by other factors.

2. Land Subsidence and Relative Sea-Level Rise

Land subsidence is the sinking or lowering of the land surface, and most land subsidence in the U.S. is caused by human activities [3]. Two well-studied cases of land subsidence are in the Houston-Galveston, Texas, area and the Santa Clara Valley, California. Land sank by as much as three meters over 50 years because of intensive groundwater withdrawals in the two areas, as well as petroleum extraction in Texas, resulting in increased coastal flooding [4]. Regional authorities were established in the two areas to manage water use and land subsidence. The regional authorities set up monitoring networks and enlisted scientists to study

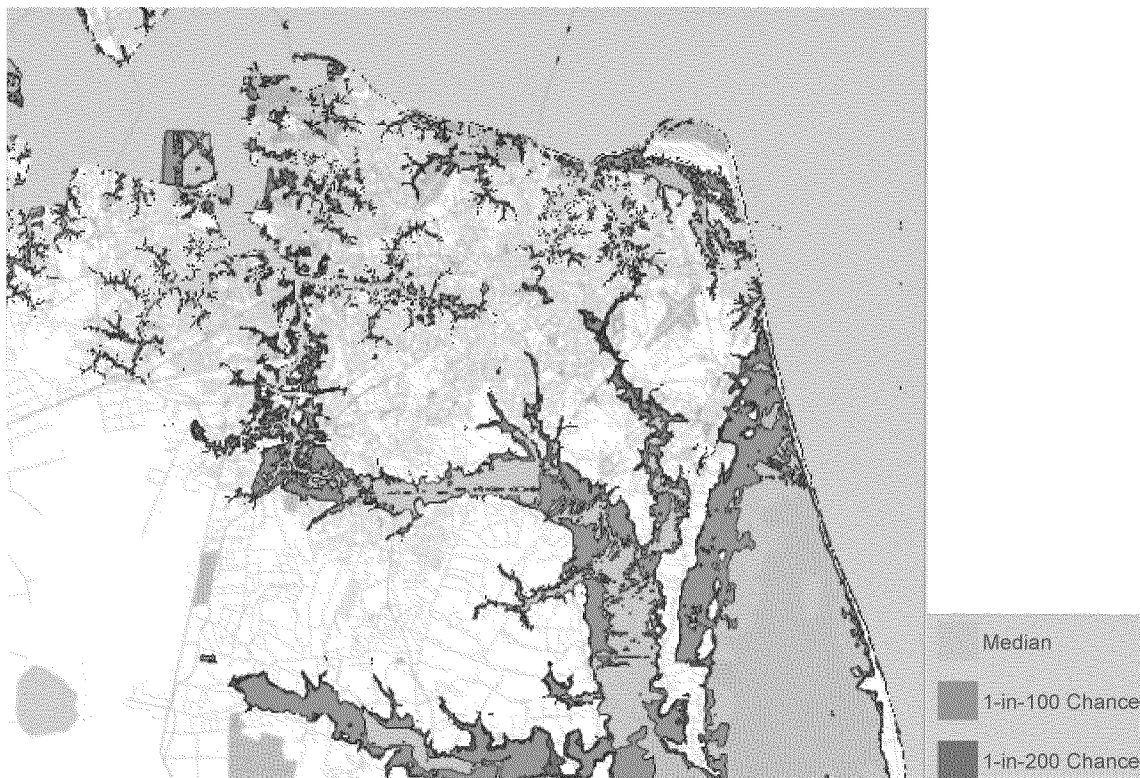


Figure 1. Mean sea level rise in Norfolk by 2100. (Source: Risky Business.)

the problem. Ultimately, the communities adopted new water-management practices to prevent land subsidence, including relocating groundwater withdrawals away from the coast, substituting surface water [5] for groundwater supplies, and increasing aquifer recharge. In the Santa Clara Valley, subsidence has mostly been stopped and, in the Houston-Galveston area, subsidence has been slowed, particularly along vulnerable shorelines [3].

Rates and locations of land subsidence change over time, so accurate measurements and predictive tools are needed to improve understanding of land subsidence. Although rates of land subsidence are not as high on the Atlantic Coast as they have been in the Houston-Galveston area or the Santa Clara Valley, land subsidence is important because of the low-lying topography and susceptibility to sea-level rise in the southern Chesapeake Bay region.

Land subsidence can increase flooding, alter wetland and coastal ecosystems, and damage infrastructure and historical sites. Because land subsidence contributes to relative sea-level rise in the region, it is important to understand why, where, and how fast it is occurring, now and in the future.

Land subsidence is causing most of the relative “sea-level rise” that has been measured in the Chesapeake Bay. However, tidal-station measurements of sea levels do not distinguish between water that is rising and land that is sinking—the combined elevation changes are termed “relative sea-level rise”. Land subsidence is the sinking or lowering of the land surface and it increases the risk of coastal flooding and contributes to water intrusion and shoreline retreat—Figure 2.

As relative sea levels rise, shorelines retreat and the magnitude and frequency of near-shore coastal flooding increase. Although land subsidence can be slow, its effects accumulate over time. This has been an expensive problem in the Houston-Galveston area and the Santa Clara Valley [5] and contributes to current flooding problems in the Chesapeake Bay region. Analysts found that between 59,000 and 176,000 residents living near the shores of the Chesapeake Bay could be either permanently inundated or regularly flooded by 2100 [6]. Damage to personal property was estimated to be \$9 billion to \$26 billion, and 120,000 acres of ecologically valuable land could be inundated or regularly flooded, under these same assumptions. However, the key question is whether AGW-induced sea level rise is the causal factor.

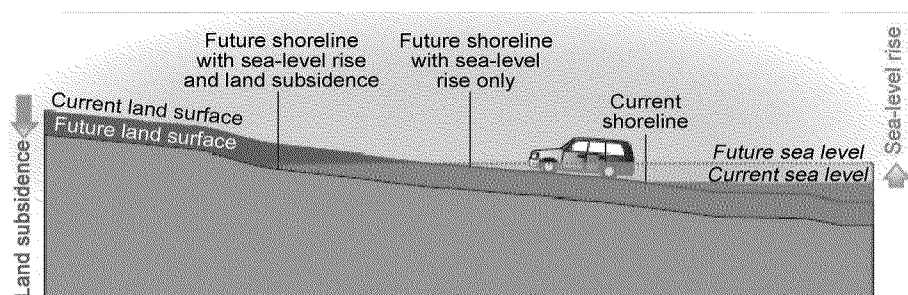


Figure 2. Shoreline retreat caused by a combination of sea-level rise and land subsidence. (Source: USGS.)

Land subsidence can also increase flooding in areas away from the coast. Low-lying areas, such as the Blackwater River Basin in Virginia can be subject to increased flooding as the land sinks. Locations along the Blackwater River in the city of Franklin and the counties of Isle of Wight and Southampton have experienced large floods in recent years [3]. Land subsidence may be altering the topographic gradient that drives the flow of the river and contributing to the flooding.

3. Causes of Land Subsidence in the Chesapeake Bay Region

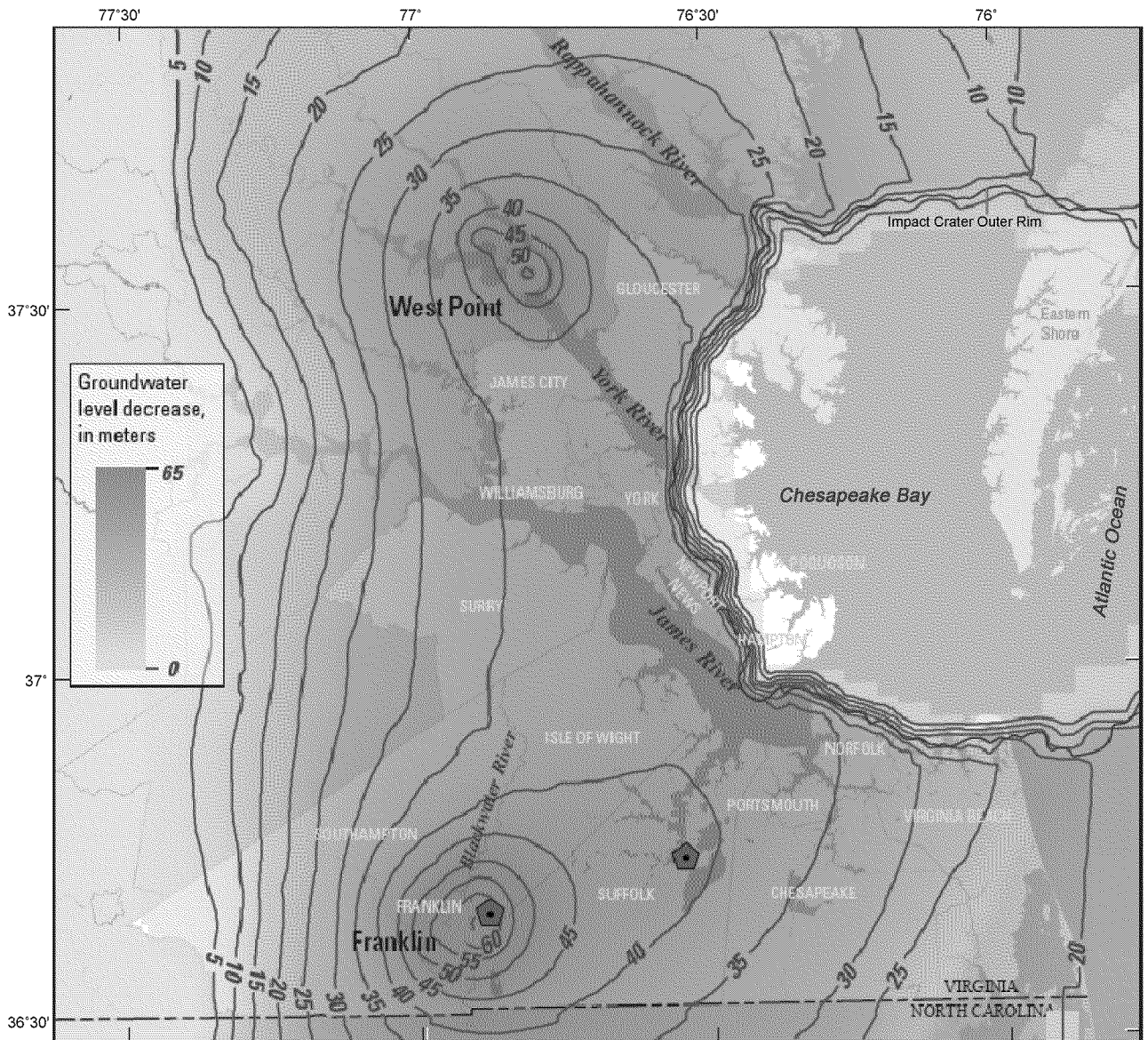
It is important to understand the causes of land subsidence so that it can be more effectively managed. Most land subsidence in the U.S. is caused by human activities, with groundwater withdrawals responsible for about 80 percent of land subsidence in the U.S. [7]. Causes of subsidence that are most relevant to the Chesapeake Bay region include aquifer-system compaction caused by groundwater withdrawals and glacial isostatic adjustment.

When groundwater is pumped from an aquifer system, pressure decreases. The pressure change is reflected by water levels in wells, with water levels decreasing as aquifer-system pressure decreases. This is happening over most of the Chesapeake Bay region, with the greatest water-level decreases seen near the pumping centers of Franklin and West Point, Virginia—Figure 3. As water levels decrease, the aquifer system compacts, causing the land surface above to subside. Water levels have decreased over the entire Virginia Coastal Plain in the Potomac aquifer, which is the deepest and thickest aquifer in the southern Chesapeake Bay region and supplies about 75 percent of groundwater withdrawn from the Virginia Coastal Plain aquifer system [8].

The amount of aquifer-system compaction is determined by three factors: Water-level decline, sediment compressibility, and sediment thickness. If any of these three factors increase in magnitude, then the amount of aquifer-system compaction and land subsidence increases. Because all three of these factors vary spatially across the southern Chesapeake Bay region, rates of land subsidence caused by aquifer-system compaction also vary spatially across the region.

The Virginia Coastal Plain aquifer system consists of many stacked layers of sand and clay. Although groundwater is withdrawn primarily from the aquifers (sandy layers), most compaction occurs in confining units and clay lenses, the relatively impermeable layers sandwiched between and within the aquifers [9]. The compression of clay layers is mostly non-recoverable, meaning that, if groundwater levels later recover and increase, then the aquifer system does not expand to its previous volume and the land surface does not rise to its previous elevations [7]. It has been estimated that 95 percent of the water removed from storage in the Virginia Coastal Plain aquifer system between 1891 and 1980 was derived from the confining layers [10].

The timing of aquifer-system compaction is also important. Compaction can continue for many years or decades after groundwater levels decline. When groundwater is pumped from an aquifer, pressure decreases in the aquifer. The



Map made from U.S. Geological Survey and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries data
 Virginia State plane projection
 Virginia south Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS)4502
 North American Datum 1983(NAD83)

0 20 MILES
 0 10 20 KILOMETER

EXPLANATION

- 20— Line of equal groundwater level decline (predevelopment to 2008)—Shows change in elevation. Contour interval is 5 meters
- Groundwater withdrawal center
- ⬠ U.S. Geological Survey extensometer station

Figure 3. Chesapeake Bay groundwater water-level decreases, 1900 to 2008. (Source: USGS.)

pressure decrease then slowly propagates into clay layers that are adjacent to or within the aquifer, and as long as pressure continues to decrease in the clay layers, compaction continues.

The layered sediments of the Virginia Coastal Plain aquifer system range in grain size from very fine (silts and clays) to coarse (sand and shell fragments) [10]. Confining layers outside the meteor impact crater occupy about 16 percent of the total aquifer-system thickness, an average of 100 m out of the total average thickness of 619 m [8]. Clay layers overlying and within the Potomac aquifer are compressing as aquifer pressure decreases migrate vertically and laterally from pumping wells [11].

Crystalline bedrock underlies the layered sediments of the Virginia Coastal Plain aquifer system, but the bedrock is not solid and unyielding but actually flexes and moves in response to stress. Bedrock in the mid-Atlantic region is moving slowly downward in response to melting of the Laurentide ice sheet that covered Canada and the northern U.S. during the last ice age [12]. When the ice sheet still existed, the weight of the ice pushed the underlying Earth's crust downward and, in response, areas away from the ice sheet were forced upward (called glacial forebulge). The southern Chesapeake Bay region is in the glacial forebulge area and was forced upward by the Laurentide ice sheet. The ice sheet started melting about 18,000 years ago and took many thousands of years to disappear entirely. As the ice melted and its weight was removed, glacial forebulge areas, which previously had been forced upward, began sinking and continue to sink. This movement of the Earth's crust in response to ice loading or melting is called glacial isostatic adjustment. Data from GPS measurements and carbon dating of marsh sediments indicate that regional land subsidence in response to glacial isostatic adjustment in the Chesapeake Bay region may have a current rate of about 1 mm/yr [13].

There are other causes of land subsidence, but there is currently little or no evidence that these other causes are important to regional subsidence processes in the southern Chesapeake Bay region. These include bedrock dissolution, drainage and degradation of organic soils, settling of fill and disturbed soils [14], and volcanic disturbances and tectonic motion related to continental crust movements. Settling of impact crater sediments associated with the Chesapeake Bay meteor crater is an unlikely cause of current land subsidence in the region because the meteor struck about 35 million years ago [15]. The passage of time since the meteor impact has been so great that, even if it was conservatively assumed that subsidence rates had stayed constant during the past 1 million years rather than decreasing, a rate of 1 mm/yr. would equate to 1 kilometer of subsidence, which is not compatible with current understanding of regional geology [16].

4. Land Subsidence and Sea-Level Rise in the Chesapeake Bay Region

Land subsidence has been known and observed in the southern Chesapeake Bay region for many decades and is a factor that must be considered by urban planners and natural resource managers. Land subsidence in the Chesapeake Bay re-

gion was first documented over four decades ago by Holdahl and Morrison who reported results of geodetic surveys completed between 1940 and 1971 and found land surfaces across the region were sinking at an average rate of 2.8 mm/yr. with rates ranging from 1.1 to 4.8 mm/yr [17]. The two areas where subsidence rates were the most rapid roughly coincide with groundwater pumping centers at Franklin and West Point. Measurements of land subsidence are currently made at Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) in the region. The National Geodetic Survey has computed velocities for three of these stations between 2006 and 2011 and found an average subsidence rate of 3.1 mm/yr [18].

Aquifer-system compaction was measured with extensometers at two locations in the region, at Franklin from 1979 to 1995 and at Suffolk from 1982 to 1995 [19]. The extensometers showed 24.2 mm of total compaction at Franklin from 1979 through 1995 (1.5 mm/yr.) and 50.2 mm of total compaction at Suffolk from 1982 through 1995 (3.7 mm/yr.). Rates of compaction were correlated to groundwater-level decreases and to the aggregate thickness of compressible sediments at each location. The total thickness of compressible fine-grained sediments is 130.8 m at Suffolk and 62.7 m at Franklin. Water levels in the Potomac aquifer during the period of compaction measurement decreased more at Suffolk than at Franklin, about 5 m versus about 2 m. Aquifer-system compaction has not been measured at any other locations in the Chesapeake Bay region but it likely affects most of the region because large water-level decreases in the aquifer system are widespread.

Relative sea-level rise measured at four National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) tidal stations averaged 3.9 mm/yr. from about 1950 through 2006. At the Sewells Point tidal station in Norfolk, Virginia, rising sea levels have been recorded since 1927: Sea level at Sewells Point rose at an average rate of 4.4 mm/yr. from 1927 to 2006, with a 95 percent confidence interval of ± 0.27 mm/yr [20]. In comparison, global average sea levels have been rising at about 1.8 mm/yr. Although rates of absolute sea-level rise (rise due just to increases in ocean volume) can vary substantially from one location to another and change over time [21], the global average rate of 1.8 mm/yr. from 1961 to 2003 is a widely accepted global benchmark rate [22]. The difference between the average sea-level rise computed from the four NOAA tidal stations in the study area (3.9 mm/yr.) and the benchmark global rate (1.8 mm/yr.) is 2.1 mm/yr., which is an estimate of the average rate of land subsidence at the four NOAA stations.

However, as noted, local regional sea level rise can differ significantly from the global mean sea level rise [23]. Chesapeake Bay tide-gage records and paleo-sea-level records from tidal marshes and the bay's main stem indicate that rates of sea-level rise in Chesapeake Bay range from about 3.2 to 4.7 mm/yr., depending on the location and period of record for each tide gage. These rates exceed the global average because the land is subsiding. Further, the departure of sea-level trends in Chesapeake Bay from the global mean for the last century may not persist. Thus, rates measured at tide gages do not necessarily reflect

pre-20th century regional patterns, nor can they be necessarily expected to persist into the future [24]. Nevertheless, the estimates used here are currently the best available and are supported by the research literature [25].

Thus, the difference between average subsidence rate of about 3.1 mm/yr and the average estimated sea-level rise computed in the Chesapeake Bay area of about 3.9 mm/yr. is 0.8 mm/year. These data indicate that land subsidence has been responsible for most of the relative sea-level rise measured in the Chesapeake Bay region over the past half-century.

5. Links between Groundwater Withdrawals and Land Subsidence

Aquifer-system compaction is responsible for most land subsidence in the region, based on average measured land subsidence rates of about 2.8 mm/yr. and measured average compaction rates of 2.6 mm/yr. The aquifer-system compaction is caused by high groundwater withdrawal rates that have lowered water levels [26]. As shown in Figure 4, groundwater withdrawal rates in the region increased sharply in the 20th century as modern pumping technology was widely adopted [7]. The many decades of increasing groundwater withdrawals have caused groundwater levels to decrease across the Chesapeake Bay region. Water levels are expected to continue decreasing for many years, even if pumping rates do not increase further, because of delay caused by compressibility of the aquifer system [8].

An important component of relative sea-level rise, land subsidence, could be prevented or reduced in the future if groundwater pumping strategies were changed [27]. Future land subsidence caused by aquifer-system compaction can be

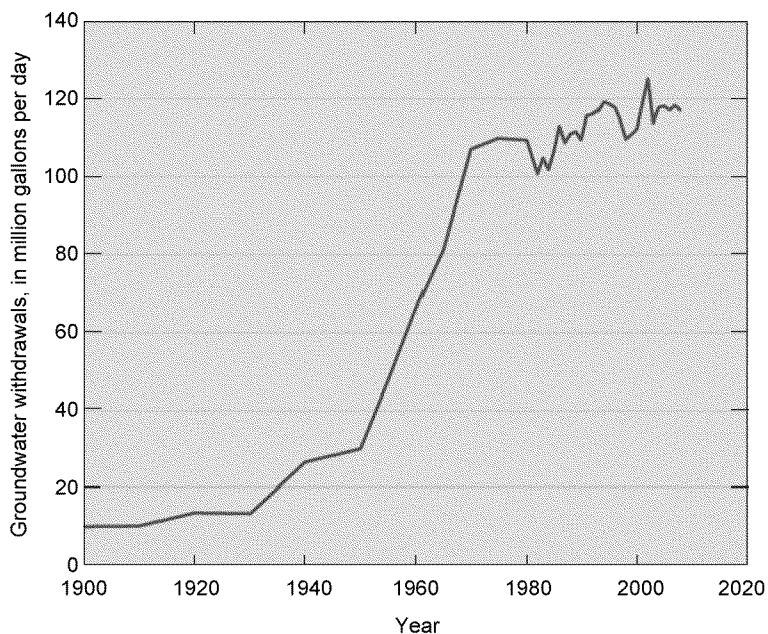


Figure 4. Groundwater withdrawal rates from Virginia coastal plain aquifers, 1900 to 2008. (Source: USGS.)

reduced or stopped by changing water-use practices. Because aquifer-system compaction is the primary cause of land subsidence in the Chesapeake Bay region, reducing compaction can reduce land subsidence and associated flood risks [28]. In the Houston-Galveston area and the Santa Clara Valley, resource managers have successfully decreased land subsidence by moving groundwater pumping away from the coast, reducing groundwater withdrawal rates, and increasing aquifer recharge [29]. Similar findings have been reported for the San Joaquin Valley, California [30], coastal Louisiana [31], the Yellow River delta, China [32], and the central Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta, Bangladesh [33].

The small contribution to land subsidence from glacial isostatic adjustment in the Chesapeake Bay region—perhaps about 1 mm/yr [33]—cannot be prevented. This natural glacial isostatic adjustment of the Earth’s crust will diminish with time, but at a glacial or geologic pace.

6. Conclusions

Sea level rise due to climate change is a contentious issue with profound geographic and economic implications, and there is little doubt that water intrusion is a serious problem in much of the Chesapeake Bay region. However, the critical question is whether this water intrusion is the result of climate-induced sea level rise or is being caused by other factors. Our findings indicate that the water intrusion problems in the region are due not to “sea level rise”, but, rather, primarily to land subsidence due to groundwater depletion and, to a lesser extent, subsidence from glacial isostatic adjustment. We conclude that water intrusion may thus continue even if sea levels actually decline.

The difference is critical, and the solutions required to address the problem are entirely different. If the cause of the problem is primarily land subsidence—as it is in Norfolk and the Chesapeake Bay region, then water intrusion will continue irrespective of sea level changes. For the Chesapeake Bay region, the required remedy is the reversal of groundwater withdrawal rates, which has been used successfully elsewhere in the USA to solve water intrusion problems—including in the Houston-Galveston, Texas area, and the Santa Clara Valley in California. Future land subsidence caused by aquifer-system compaction in the Chesapeake Bay region can be reduced or stopped by changing water-use practices. Our findings are significant because the water intrusion problems in the Chesapeake Bay—or elsewhere—cannot be successfully resolved unless their causes are correctly identified and appropriate remedies are devised.

Acknowledgements

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From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Wed 7/5/2017 4:46:24 PM
Subject: Response to MIT President: Paris Exit Scientifically Sound (Part I) - Master Resource

From Willie Soon:

Please help spread this refined version to all especially anyone that has MIT root or affiliation

<https://www.masterresource.org/climate-science/mit-president-exit-paris-i/>

Joe

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From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Thur 8/24/2017 10:45:16 PM
Subject: Heartland Institute Experts React to Department of Energy Report on Electricity Grid

The following press release is scheduled to go tomorrow out to 16,161 Environment, Energy, and Political press and media contacts.

THE HEARTLAND INSTITUTE
HEARTLAND.ORG



Heartland Institute Experts React to Department of Energy Report on Electricity Grid

The Department of Energy (DOE) this week released a report titled “Staff Report to the Secretary on Electricity Markets and Reliability.” The report outlines the current state of the nation’s electricity grid and power plant infrastructure, including the fact natural-gas plants have replaced coal as the leading source of power generation for America’s electricity grid. The report also recommends policy changes, including easing and speeding up permitting requirements for coal and nuclear plants, and scaling back federal tax credits for solar and wind energy.

The following statements from energy policy experts at The Heartland Institute – a free-market think tank – may be used for attribution. For more comments, refer to the contact information below. To book a Heartland guest on your program, please contact Media Specialist Billy Aouste at media@heartland.org and 312/377-4000 or (cell) 847/445-7554.

“This report is, in one word, ‘disappointing.’ However, I’m not surprised it whitewashes the massive crush of over-regulations foisted on the coal industry for the past eight years. Many of these very same bureaucrats were charged with implementing President Barack Obama’s promise to ‘bankrupt the coal industry.’ Thank goodness President Donald Trump and Energy Sec. Rick Perry are working to reverse this Obama-era threat to electricity production, the hundreds of millions of Americans whose daily lives depend on it, and the coal industry that keeps much of it fueled.”

Tim Huelskamp, Ph.D.
President
The Heartland Institute
thuelskamp@heartland.org
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Dr. Huelskamp represented Kansas’ 1st District in the House of Representatives from 2011 to 2017.

“The Department of Energy study takes a very sanguine view of U.S. electrical reliability while underplaying the pernicious impact the Obama administration’s anti-carbon rules had on the decisions of utilities to close coal-fired plants. With respect to the study’s conclusions, I am sure the lawyers at DOE and in the White House advised what they did because there is no apparent and immediate crisis, so a blanket moratorium on further coal plant closures is the wrong approach. But that only defers the issue.

“The reality is coal plants are closing because they are aging in the face of federal and state policies that favor renewable energy over renovated coal plants. With that, new natural-gas plants are becoming the default option to support renewables, a situation that operates under the assumption natural gas will be inexpensive and plentiful forever. The report’s suggested renewable fuel policies are based completely on erroneous concerns about carbon dioxide – the result of the decision made by the media and the Obama administration to demonize fossil fuels and laud unreliable wind and solar power.”

Fred Palmer

Senior Fellow, Energy Policy
The Heartland Institute
fpalmer@heartland.org
312/377-4000

“The Department of Energy study makes clear government subsidies and mandates keep the renewable energy industry profitable instead of it dying a quick death in the marketplace, which has caused an artificial downturn in coal and nuclear power. Although coal and nuclear may not thrive even if state governments and the feds were to remove their heavy thumbs from the renewable side of the scale, coal and nuclear would certainly be able to compete in the marketplace with an ascendant natural-gas industry that has become their primary competitor. I applaud DOE’s recommendations to try to return the playing field somewhere to the vicinity of level.”

Tim Benson

Policy Analyst
The Heartland Institute
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“This report confirms three things: First, some coal fired-power plant retirements are due to market conditions, including the wider adoption of low-cost natural gas – but some were due to forced adoption of variable renewable energy mandates and subsidies. The latter made more-flexible natural-gas plants better sources of baseload power. Second, some coal-fired power plants have been shuttered prematurely due to regulatory changes, rather than market conditions. Research shows the shuttering was not justified on the grounds of protecting human health or creating significant and economical environmental benefits. Third, renewable energy sources are adding additional stresses and costs to the electric grid – and the more that is added, the more

these costs will rise.

“In the end, had highly subsidized and expensive wind and solar electric power not been forced onto the markets through various state mandates, many coal-fired power plants recently shuttered would still be operating. That would mean consumers would be paying less than they currently are for energy and energy-dependent goods and services.”

H. Sterling Burnett

Research Fellow, Environment & Energy Policy

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The [Heartland Institute](#) is a 33-year-old national nonprofit organization headquartered in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Its mission is to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems. For more information, visit [our website](#) or call 312/377-4000.

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Fri 6/2/2017 7:05:39 PM
Subject: Peduto to Trump: Pittsburgh will move to 100% Clean Energy

A news release from the Sierra Club...

This came up on my cellphone as "Pittsburgh will move..." I was hoping it would end, "... to France." Good riddance to them, I say! Just leave behind your football franchise, please. I hear they are pretty good.

Joe

From: Shane Levy, Sierra Club [mailto:shane.levy@sierraclub.org]
Sent: Friday, June 02, 2017 1:20 PM
To: Joseph Bast
Subject: Peduto to Trump: Pittsburgh will move to 100% Clean Energy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Friday, June 2, 2017

Contact: Shane Levy, Sierra Club - shane.levy@sierraclub.org, 201-679-9507

[View as webpage](#)

Peduto to Trump: Pittsburgh will move to 100% Clean Energy

Pittsburgh, PA. - Just hours after Donald Trump claimed to be represent the voters of Pittsburgh in his decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement, Mayor Bill Peduto today announced his support for a goal of powering Pittsburgh entirely with clean and renewable energy by 2035.

Mayor Peduto joins a growing coalition of *Mayors for 100% Clean Energy* who have similarly announced support for a goal of powering their communities with 100 percent renewable energy such as wind and solar.

"Donald Trump said he was elected by voters of Pittsburgh, but his misguided decision to withdraw from the Paris climate does not reflect the values of our city," **said Mayor Peduto.** "Pittsburgh will not only heed the guidelines of the Paris agreement, we will work to move towards 100 percent clean and renewable energy for our future, our economy, and our people"

Mayors for 100% Clean Energy, an initiative of the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 Campaign, represents a growing number of mayors from across the country who have endorsed a community-wide goal of transitioning entirely to renewable energy.

On Wednesday, Columbia, South Carolina Mayor Steve Benjamin along with his *Mayors for 100% Clean Energy* introduced a landmark resolution to the U.S. Conference of Mayors that would formally establish support from the nation's mayors for the goal of 100 percent renewable energy in cities nationwide.

"For every terrible decision Trump makes, local leaders like Mayor Peduto are fighting to make sure clean energy continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Today's announcement shows how grassroots activists, frontline communities, local governments, and concerned people across the United States can and will continue to drive the transition away from fossil fuels to 100% clean and renewable energy," **said Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune.**

"Pittsburgh is the first post-industrial city in the United States to aim to power itself with 100 percent clean energy," **said Eva Resnick-Day, Community Organizer at the Sierra Club.** "Our city has always been on the forefront of innovation and today's announcement by Mayor Peduto shows that we will continue to be."

Ahead of the U.S. Conference of Mayors annual meeting in Miami Beach in June, Mayor Peduto's endorsement serves as a powerful message to the broader mayoral community regarding the opportunity and benefit that city leaders see in the transition to 100 percent renewable energy.

"Pittsburgh knows that our children's future and the future of our workforce are one and the same," **said Glenn Grayson, Organizer with One PA.** "We are working hard to invest in clean energy technology not only for the future of our planet, but for the health of our children, and the health of our economy."

More than 25 U.S. cities have now committed to transition entirely to clean and renewable energy.

"Cities can help lead the transition away from dirty fuels to renewable energy, but it will require boldness and ambition to get it done. I'm proud to stand with my fellow *Mayors for 100% Clean Energy* to call for a transition to 100 percent clean and renewable energy in my community," **said Mayor Peduto.**

###

About the Sierra Club

The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3 million members and supporters nationwide. In addition to creating opportunities for people of all ages, levels and locations to have meaningful outdoor experiences, the Sierra Club works to safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife,

and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and litigation. For more information, visit <http://www.sierraclub.org>.

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Sierra Club, 2101 Webster St. Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612 United States

To: Richard.morrison@cei.org[Richard.morrison@cei.org]
From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Thur 8/24/2017 5:11:58 PM
Subject: CEI: EPA Denial of Chlorpyrifos Ban Sets Pro-Science Precedent:

FYI.

Joe

From: Richard Morrison [mailto:Richard.Morrison@cei.org]
Sent: Thursday, August 24, 2017 12:06 PM
To: Joseph Bast
Subject: Agriculture and science policy in the Trump White House

Joe,

The Competitive Enterprise Institute's [Angela Logomasini](#) has a [new policy brief](#) out on the recent decision by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt not to pursue a ban on the popular pesticide chlorpyrifos. The administration has subsequently [taken heat](#) for this action, despite it being based on the best sound science principles.

Angela discusses why government policy on science and the environment shouldn't be made according to environmental activist press releases, and how U.S. farmers need access to effective and affordable pest control in order to keep producing the food that feeds the rest of us.

If you can help amplify this message by sharing the content below with your colleagues or on social media, we would be much obliged.

EPA Denial of Chlorpyrifos Ban Sets Pro-Science Precedent: Activist Petition to Ban Safe and Valuable Pesticide Would Undermine Food Affordability (CEI OnPoint, 8/10/17)

<https://cei.org/content/epa-denial-of-chlorpyrifos>

<https://twitter.com/ceidotorg/status/895753626513178624>

Bugged by Junk Science (Huffington Post, 8/21/17)

<https://cei.org/content/bugged-junk-science>

<https://twitter.com/ceidotorg/status/900003398354972673>

NYT Pesticide Exposé Only Exposes Foolish Reporting (blog post, 8/23)

<https://cei.org/blog/nyt-pesticide-expos%C3%A9-only-exposes-foolish-reporting>

<https://twitter.com/ceidotorg/status/900496877740863489>

If you have any questions about the material above, please let me know.

Cheers,

Richard Morrison

Senior Editor, Competitive Enterprise Institute

Executive Producer, “I, Whiskey: The Human Spirit”

cei.org/whiskey

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Fri 6/30/2017 2:27:30 PM
Subject: EPA will proceed with Red Team

H/T Roger Bezdek.

Joe

Climatewire

EPA

Pruitt will launch program to 'critique' climate science

Emily Holden, E&E News reporter

Published: Friday, June 30, 2017

U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt is leading a formal initiative to challenge mainstream climate science using a "back-and-forth critique" by government-recruited experts, according to a senior administration official.

The program will use "red team, blue team" exercises to conduct an "at-length evaluation of U.S. climate science," the official said, referring to a concept developed by the military to identify vulnerabilities in field operations.

"The administrator believes that we will be able to recruit the best in the fields which study climate and will organize a specific process in which these individuals ... provide back-and-forth critique of specific new reports on climate science," the source said.

"We are in fact very excited about this initiative," the official added. "Climate science, like other fields of science, is constantly changing. A new, fresh and transparent evaluation is something everyone should support doing."

The disclosure follows the administration's suggestions over several days that it supports reviewing climate science outside the normal peer-review process used by scientists. This is the first time agency officials acknowledged that Pruitt has begun that process. The source said Energy Secretary Rick Perry also favors the review.

Executives in the coal industry interpret the move as a step toward challenging the endangerment finding, the agency's legal foundation for regulating greenhouse gases from cars, power plants and other sources.

Robert Murray, CEO of Murray Energy Corp., said Pruitt assured him yesterday that he plans to begin reviewing the endangerment finding within months.

"We talked about that, and they're going to start addressing it later this year," Murray said in an interview. "They're going to start getting a lot of scientific people in to give both sides of the issue."

But another person attending the meeting said Pruitt resisted committing to a full-scale challenge of the 2009 finding. The administration source also said Pruitt "did not promise to try to rescind the endangerment finding."

Climate scientists express concern that the "red team, blue team" concept could politicize scientific research and disproportionately elevate the views of a relatively small number of experts who disagree with mainstream scientists (*Climatewire*, June 29).

Pruitt told about 30 people attending a board meeting of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity yesterday morning that he's establishing a "specific process" to review climate science, the administration official said. Murray and two other people in the room interpreted Pruitt as saying he would challenge the endangerment finding.

Challenging the endangerment finding would be enormously difficult, according to many lawyers. The finding is built on an array of scientific material establishing that human health and welfare is endangered by a handful of greenhouse gases emitted by industry, power plants and cars. It stems from a Supreme Court ruling in 2007.

If Pruitt somehow succeeded in rolling back the finding — an outcome that many Republicans say is far-fetched — the federal government would no longer be required to restrict greenhouse gas emissions.

Power companies have told Pruitt they don't want him to wade into a protracted and public legal battle that he would likely lose. Many have said that if EPA rescinds its carbon standards for power plants — the Clean Power Plan — the agency should write a substitute rule and try to avoid court fights that might confuse their efforts to make long-term business plans (*Climatewire*, June 22).

Murray yesterday commended President Trump's announcement that he would try to boost some coal exports, but he said that ultimately what the sector needs is for EPA to nix the endangerment finding.

Perry also has touted carbon capture and sequestration technologies for coal plants, even as he questions whether climate science is settled.

Murray said carbon capture won't help, either.

"Carbon capture and sequestration does not work. It's a pseudonym for 'no coal,'" Murray said while waiting for a ride outside DOE headquarters. "It is neither practical nor economic, carbon capture and sequestration. It is just cover for the politicians, both Republicans and Democrats that say, 'Look what I did for coal,' knowing all the time that it doesn't help coal at all."

Murray acknowledged that the legal fight over the endangerment finding would be "tough." He thinks that's because climate activists and renewable power producers want to keep making money off climate change.

"All these people will be jumping on this on the other side because it's all about money, but it is not about America. America needs reliable, low-cost electricity, and that is a mix of different fuels," he said.

Murray also wants Perry to use emergency authority to stop coal and nuclear plant closures, although

lawyers have said that is unlikely to happen ([Energywire](#), June 19).

Still, Murray, who is close with the president, said he thinks Trump would be "receptive" to the idea.

Reporter Rod Kuckro contributed.

Twitter: [@emilyholden](#) Email: eholden@eenews.net

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Thur 7/20/2017 5:10:56 PM
Subject: Good news on the air quality front

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/house-approves-delay-obama-era-smog-reduction-mandate-48711207>

This is a courageous act by Republican members of Congress. We should congratulate them and provide scientific support wherever possible.

Joe

Joseph Bast

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From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Wed 5/31/2017 10:57:32 PM
Subject: Where's the science?

A donor to Heartland noticed that some of us aren't hitting the dubious science of the Paris accord as hard as we are the economics – the cost and geopolitics of it. I hope those of you who are well practiced in explaining why CO2 is not a pollutant will voice your opinion at this critical moment in the national and international debate. Let's not let the other side claim to occupy the high ground.

Joe

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From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Mon 8/21/2017 10:38:55 PM
Subject: Wow: Only 28% of Americans Think Climate Scientists Really Understand Climate Change

... and fewer than 20% of people responding to this survey believe climate scientists know how we should address the issue. The American people are way smarter than the media, Hollywood, most academics, and every Democrat in the country.

I think I can hear Al Gore weeping...

Joe

https://ballotpedia.org/Scott_Rasmussen%27s_Number_of_the_Day

Scott Rasmussen's Number of the Day

By *Scott Rasmussen*

August 21, 2017: Twenty-eight percent (28%) of Americans think that climate scientists understand the causes of global climate change “very well.” A Pew Research study found that only 19% believe that the climate scientists have a very good understanding of the best ways to address the issue.^[1]

In general, the study found that Americans trust climate scientists more than politicians on the topic. Two-thirds (67%) believe scientists should play a major role in addressing policy issues on the matter. Most (56%) also believe that energy industry leaders (56%) and the general public (56%) should have a major say in such policy topics.

The Pew study, however, also found that people believe there are differences of opinion among the climate scientists. Only 27% believe that there is a consensus on the issue and that just about all climate scientists believe human behavior is mostly responsible for global climate change. Another 35% think more than half hold this view.

The survey also explored the degree of trust and confidence in those researching climate science. Thirty-six percent (36%) believe that, most of the time, scientists’ research findings are motivated by a desire to advance their own careers. Only 32% say that they mostly rely on the best scientific evidence. Twenty-seven percent (27%) believe that political views of the scientists generally influence their work.

Liberal Democrats tend to express high levels of confidence in the climate scientists and their motives. Conservative Republicans are often quite skeptical. Most other Americans have mixed views.

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Sun 8/20/2017 3:16:38 AM
Subject: Roy Spencer's new book: An Inconvenient Deception

Roy Spencer writes,

Today my e-book entitled "*An Inconvenient Deception: How Al Gore Distorts Climate Science and Energy Policy*" became available on Amazon Kindle. It is mostly a critique of his most recent movie and book by the same title.

The e-book is currently running neck-and-neck with Al Gore's paperback version of *An Inconvenient Sequel* (it's ahead of the Kindle and audiobook versions), under the category of Earth Science/Climatology.

I did a short blog post on it here:

<http://www.drroyspencer.com/2017/08/an-inconvenient-deception-how-al-gore-distorts-climate-science-and-energy-policy/>

John Stossel will mention it in his syndicated column appearing Wednesday.

-Roy

Joe

Joseph Bast

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From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Wed 5/31/2017 3:48:31 PM
Subject: WHO report: Tobacco and the environment

I have seldom seen a worse collection of junk science and utter nonsense than this:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/05/31/health/tobacco-environment-who-report/>

The point of collecting and spewing all this junk is contained in the penultimate sentence:

Although governments worldwide already collect \$270 billion in tobacco taxes a year, the WHO suggests that increasing tax and prices is an effective way of reducing consumption and help development priorities in each country, adding that by collecting 80 cents more per pack, the global tax revenue could be doubled.

Think of all the *good things* we could do with \$270 billion more of other people's money.

H/T Brad Rodu.

Joe

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President

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From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Wed 6/28/2017 1:18:33 PM
Subject: Canada is also cutting back on global warming studies

H/T Wendell Cox.

joe

From: Wendell Cox [mailto:wendell@theglobeandmail.com] **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2017 7:44 AM
To: Joseph Bast
Subject: FYI

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/scientists-brace-for-cuts-as-federal-climate-funding-expires/article35484709/>



From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Fri 8/18/2017 6:14:23 PM
Subject: Gore goes nuts in interview about his movie

H/T William Dwyer... see especially the highlighted sections.

Joe

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/2017/08/question-al-gore-on-climate-change-and-hell-call-you-a-denier/>

UK Spectator

Question Al Gore on climate change and he'll call you a 'denier'

You must swallow whole the apocalyptic vision he presents – or else

Ross Clark

19 August 2017

The subtitle of Al Gore's new film is 'Truth to Power', which is supposed to give the impression of brave old Al fighting for right against the mighty fossil fuel establishment. But it is somewhat ironic, given his response when the power being challenged is Gore himself. The former vice president was in London last week to promote his new film and I, along with the world's press, was invited to a private screening before being allotted an entire eight minutes talking with the great man.

An Inconvenient Sequel is an odd film. Billed as a film about global warming, it is really about Gore himself. It starts with him plodding around on a glacier in Greenland, but much of its running time is devoted to scenes which really have nothing to do with the subject — other, perhaps, than that they depict a lifestyle somewhat at odds with a man preaching the need to cut carbon emissions. Gore is seen driving a large Jeep to visit his childhood home, and jetting off around the world. As for the scenes of his failed presidential campaign in 2000 and the Bataclan massacre in Paris in 2015, I fail to see what they have to do with climate change.

But one scene catches my eye and makes me want to look into the subject more deeply. The film cuts from Gore on his melting glacier to a flooded street in Miami Beach, with a voice-over from Gore making a strong connection between the two — the melt-water from Greenland is already spilling over the streets of US cities. An elderly

Miami resident is seen telling Gore that the streets never used to flood when he was young. The implication is that sea-level rise is happening frighteningly quickly — and it is all down to carbon emissions, if not nature's revenge for all those hanging chads which denied him victory in Florida and therefore the 2000 presidential election.

It caught my eye because it reminded me of an issue of accuracy which Gore encountered with his first film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, in 2006. In a High Court ruling over whether the film could be shown in schools, Mr Justice Barton ruled that while it was 'broadly accurate', it contained nine 'significant errors'. One of them concerned a claim that sea levels could rise by 20 feet in the near future due to the melting of ice in Greenland or the west Antarctica ice sheet — something the judge ruled to be 'distinctly alarmist'. Another involved a false claim that residents of Pacific atolls had already been forced to evacuate to New Zealand due to sea-level rise.

Not being a climate scientist, the threat of sea-level rise is not something on which I feel qualified to propound, but I wasn't going to take Gore's word for it — not least because he is no more a climate scientist than I am. So I got in touch with Shimon Wdowinski, associate professor of marine geology and geophysics at the Florida International University, who has studied the flooding problem in Miami — exactly the sort of expert, one might think, with whom Gore or his team of researchers might have been in touch before making a documentary film involving the issue of flooding in Miami.

Wdowinski — who said that he had had no contact with Gore or his team — did not refute the connection between sea-level rise and glacier melt, but suggested it is more complex than Gore's film makes out. Over the past decade and a half, sea levels in Miami and along the rest of the eastern seaboard of the United States, have taken an upwards jolt and are currently rising by between 6mm and 9mm a year. However, the long-term rise in sea levels — caused by a combination of melting ice and thermal expansion of the oceans — is only 2mm. The rest is short-term variability caused by changes in ocean currents.

Interestingly, there may be some link between melt-water from Greenland and the change in ocean currents — Wdowinski has identified a similar short-term uplift in the rate of sea-level rise in Florida in the 1940s, when temperatures in Greenland saw a temporary upwards blip and were as high as they are now. But these findings he describes as only 'preliminary'. He has also investigated another factor behind flooding in Miami — subsidence in parts of the city which are built on reclaimed swamps. Satellite measurements reveal that some streets now lie 16 to 24cm lower than they did 80 years ago — which might explain why long-established residents are seeing places flood which never used to flood when they were young.

When I put all this to Al Gore and ask him whether his film would be stronger if it acknowledged the complexities of sea level rise — why it is rising in some places and not in others — I am expecting him to bat it away, saying that it doesn't counter his central point and that there is a limit to what you can put into a film pitched at a mass audience, but his reaction surprises me. As soon as I mention Professor Wdowinski's name, he counters: 'Never heard of him — is he a denier?' Then, as I continue to make

the point, he starts to answer before directing it at me: 'Are you a denier?' When I say I am sure that climate change is a problem, but how big a one I don't know, he jumps in: 'You are a denier.'

That is a strange interpretation of the word 'deny', I try to say. But his PR team moves in and declares 'Time's up', and I am left feeling like the guy in Monty Python who paid for a five-minute argument and was allowed only 30 seconds. On the way out, a frosty PR woman says to me: 'Can I have a word with you?' I wasn't supposed to ask difficult questions, she says, because 'this is a film junket, to promote the film'.

Surely if you are going to make a film claiming climate change to be a grave threat to the world, you ought to be prepared to answer detailed questions about it.

If you are reading this, Al, the questions I didn't get to ask you were: you don't like it, for good reason, when oil companies weigh in on climate change, so don't you think you are yourself open to charges of vested interests given that you set up and are still involved in Generation Investment Management, a fund which invests heavily in green energy?

And secondly: you have described climate change as a 'moral challenge' which can be 'reduced to a binary choice'. Doesn't that remind you a bit of your nemesis, George W. Bush, saying, after the 9/11 attacks: 'You are either with me or with the terrorists'? Doesn't climate change present a wide range of policy choices, involving an awkward trade-off between reducing carbon emissions and economic growth?

Most people, to a greater or lesser extent, accept that carbon emissions are a problem which must be addressed. But with Al Gore there is no room for any uncertainties — you swallow whole the apocalyptic vision in his films or you are a 'denier'. He and his 'climate ambassadors' whom he has trained to spread his message resemble a charismatic church whose leader must be paid constant homage. He is an obstacle to serious debate.

Joe

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To: Konkus, John[konkus.john@epa.gov]
From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Tue 5/30/2017 9:16:22 PM
Subject: RE: Invitation
[Heartland Mailing List of US Climate Scientists.xlsx](#)
[Heartland Mailing List of US Climate Economists.xlsx](#)

John,

Here are the revised spreadsheets with bio information for everyone. Also added a few addresses and email addresses that were missing from the earlier versions.

Joe

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Thur 8/17/2017 7:07:48 PM
Subject: Peer reviewers for Fourth National Climate Assessment

John Droz writes,

Joe,

I was just made aware of this: *Call for Review Editors for Fourth National Climate Assessment.*

USGCRP is currently seeking individuals with pertinent, demonstrated expertise to serve as Review Editors for the Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4).

The deadline for applications is **September 8, 2017**.

What do you know about it? Is it appropriate to get Red Team people to apply?

This is the first I've seen this too, though that isn't too surprising since I'm not a scientist and haven't been looking for such an opportunity. It does seem to me that having some of our friends to participate in this review is a good idea. If you choose to apply, please consider letting me know.

Joe

From: Joseph Bast
Sent: Tue 7/18/2017 3:28:40 PM
Subject: Two good pieces in today's WSJ

Steve Milloy and Heartland's own Isaac Orr have excellent pieces in today's WSJ. Have you applied to join one of EPA's science advisory boards? Choose the [*New Expert Information*](#) link to fill out an application form.

Joe

A Step Toward Scientific Integrity at the EPA

Scott Pruitt sweeps out Obama-era science advisers. The agency needs truly independent ones.

By Steve Milloy

July 17, 2017 5:14 p.m. ET

[239 COMMENTS](#)

The Trump administration in May began the process of replacing the small army of outside science advisers at the Environmental Protection Agency. In June, 38 additional EPA advisers were notified that their appointments would not be renewed in August. To Mr. Trump's critics, this is another manifestation of his administration's "war on science." Historians aside, the administration's actions are long overdue.

The most prominent of the EPA's myriad boards of outside advisers are the Science Advisory Board and the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, or CASAC. Mostly made up of university professors, these boards also frequently draw members from consulting firms and activist groups. Only rarely do members have backgrounds in industry. All EPA boards are governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act, which requires that they be balanced and unbiased. While the EPA is required by law to convene the SAB and CASAC, the agency is not bound by law to heed their advice.

The EPA's Obama-era "war on coal" rules and its standards for ground-level ozone—possibly the most expensive EPA rule ever issued—depend on the same scientifically unsupported notion that the fine particles of soot emitted by smokestacks and tailpipes are lethal. The EPA claims that such particles kill hundreds of thousands of Americans annually.

The EPA first considered regulating fine particles in the mid-1990s. But when the agency ran its claims past CASAC in 1996, the board concluded that the scientific evidence did not support the agency's regulatory conclusion. Ignoring the panel's advice, the EPA's leadership chose to regulate fine particles anyway, and resolved to figure out a way to avoid future troublesome opposition from CASAC.

In 1996 two-thirds of the CASAC panel had no financial connection to the EPA. By the mid-2000s, the agency had entirely flipped the composition of the advisory board so two-thirds of its members were agency grantees. Lo and behold, CASAC suddenly agreed with the EPA's leadership that fine particulates in outdoor air kill. During the Obama years, the EPA packed the CASAC panel. Twenty-four of its 26 members are now agency grantees, with some listed as principal investigators on EPA research grants worth more than \$220 million.

Although the scientific case against particulate matter hasn't improved since the 1990s, the EPA has tightened its grip on CASAC. In effect, EPA-funded researchers are empowered to review and approve their own work in order to rubber-stamp the EPA's regulatory agenda. This is all done under the guise of "independence."

Another "independent" CASAC committee conducted the most recent review of the Obama EPA's ground-level ozone standards. Of that panel's 20 members, 70% were EPA grantees who'd hailed in more than \$192 million from the agency over the years. These EPA panels make decisions by consensus, which has lately been easy enough to achieve considering they are usually chaired by an EPA grantee.

Would-be reformers have so far had no luck changing the culture at these EPA advisory committees. In 2016 the Energy and Environment Legal Institute, where I am a senior fellow, sued the agency. We alleged that the CASAC fine-particulate subcommittee was biased—a clear violation of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. We found a plaintiff who had been refused CASAC membership because of his beliefs about fine particles. Unfortunately, that individual was not willing to take a hostile public stand against the EPA for fear of professional retribution. We ultimately withdrew the suit.

The EPA's opaque selection process for membership on its advisory boards has opened the agency to charges of bias. In 2016 Michael Honeycutt, chief toxicologist of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, was recommended in 60 of the 83 nominations to the EPA for CASAC membership. The EPA instead selected Donna Kenski of the Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium. Ms. Kenski received only one of the 83 recommendations. While no one objected to Mr. Honeycutt's nomination, Sen. James Inhofe (R., Okla.) lodged an objection to Ms. Kenski's nomination, claiming she had exhibited partisanship during an earlier term on the committee.

Congress has also tried to reform the EPA’s science advisory process. During the three most recent Congresses, the House has passed bills to provide explicit conflict-of-interest rules for EPA science advisers, including bans on receiving EPA grants for three years before and after service on an advisory panel. The bills went nowhere in the Senate, where the threat of a Democrat-led filibuster loomed. Had they passed, President Obama surely would have vetoed them.

President Trump and his EPA administrator have ample statutory authority to rectify the problem. As Oklahoma’s attorney general, Scott Pruitt spent years familiarizing himself with the EPA’s unlawful ways. He is in the process of reaffirming the independence of the agency’s science advisory committees. This won’t mean that committee members can’t have a point of view. But a committee as a whole must be balanced and unbiased. Mr. Pruitt’s goal is the one intended by Congress—peer review, not pal review.

Mr. Milloy served on the Trump EPA transition team and is the author of “Scare Pollution: Why and How to Fix the EPA.”

Appeared in the July 18, 2017, print edition.

Germany Should Say Danke for U.S. Oil

Angela Merkel’s slaps at Trump don’t help her country’s cause. America’s frackers do.

By Isaac Orr

July 17, 2017 5:16 p.m. ET

[75 COMMENTS](#)

German Chancellor Angela Merkel used her closing speech at the recent Group of 20 summit to chide President Trump for withdrawing the U.S. from the Paris climate accord. Yet the German people will benefit far more from the American president’s focus on facilitating U.S. energy production and boosting exports than from Mrs. Merkel’s climate policies. They have increased residential electricity prices for German households and failed to achieve any meaningful reductions in fossil-fuel consumption or carbon-dioxide emissions.

Germany has developed a reputation as a green-energy superpower, but in many respects it isn't. Of all the energy used in Germany in 2016, 34% came from oil, 23.6% from coal, 22.7% from natural gas, 7.3% from biomass, 6.9% from nuclear, 2.1% from wind power, and 1.2% from solar. Waste, geothermal and hydropower accounted for the remaining 2%.

All told, Germany derived more than 80% of its total energy consumption from fossil fuels. That's bad news for a country that depends on imports. About 97% of the oil, 88% of the natural gas and 87% of the hard coal Germans consume are imported.

Though they may find it difficult to swallow, the German people will benefit from Mr. Trump's efforts to make energy resources accessible and affordable. Germans spent \$73.5 billion on imported oil in 2013, when the price of Brent crude averaged approximately \$108 a barrel. Since then, the U.S. embrace of hydraulic fracturing—also known as “fracking”—has resulted in a surge of U.S. crude oil on the world market, causing global oil prices to fall to about \$47 per barrel. Some back-of-the-envelope math suggests Germans may now pay \$41.5 billion less per year for their oil imports, constituting an average savings of around \$1,107 (at current exchange rates) for each of Germany's 37.5 million households.

Ms. Merkel's climate and energy policies have caused residential electricity prices in Germany to spike by approximately 47% since 2006, costing the average German household about \$380 more a year. The higher prices are largely due to a 10-fold increase in renewable-energy surcharges that guarantee returns for the wind and solar-power industries. These surcharges now make up 23% of German residential electric bills.

The German people are paying far more for their household energy needs under Ms. Merkel, yet they have little to show for it. Since 2009, when Germany began to pursue renewables aggressively, annual CO₂ emissions are down a negligible 0.1%.

Meanwhile, the U.S. experienced year-over-year reductions in CO₂ emissions in 2015 and 2016, and CO₂ emissions have fallen a dramatic 14% since 2005. This has mostly been made possible by fracking—a practice banned in Germany. Fracking has allowed the U.S. natural-gas industry to compete with coal in a way that wasn't previously possible, lowering costs for everyone.

Slapping around Mr. Trump, who is deeply unpopular in Germany, might score Ms. Merkel some domestic political points. But if the German leader really wants to help the environment, she might consider scaling back the attacks. Without American energy production and exports, Germany—and the world—would be a dirtier, darker and less efficient place.

Mr. Orr is a research fellow at the Heartland Institute.

Joseph Bast

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