

The Week That Was: 2011-1-29 (January 29, 2011)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

PLEASE NOTE: The complete TWTW, including the articles, can be downloaded in an easily printable form at the SEPP web site: www.sepp.org.

Quote of the Week:

“It will, without doubt, have come to your Lordship’s knowledge that a considerable change of climate, inexplicable at present to us, must have taken place in the Circumpolar Regions, by which the severity of the cold that has for centuries past enclosed the seas in the high northern latitudes in an impenetrable barrier of ice, has been during the last two years greatly abated. This affords ample proof that new sources of warmth have been opened, and give us leave to hope that the Arctic Seas may at this time be more accessible than they have been for centuries past, and that discoveries may now be made in them, not only interesting to the advancement of science, but also to the future intercourse of mankind and the commerce of distant nations.” Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society, on 20 November 1817 to their Lordships of the Admiralty. The referenced period covered the reduction of ice in the prior two years, one the infamous [Year Without a Summer 1816](#) . It was in the Dalton Solar Minimum, a time of unusual cold and snow in middle latitudes. [From ICECAP]

Number of the Week: \$5,975/kW

THIS WEEK:

By Ken Haapala, Executive Vice President, Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)

President Obama began an effort to show his administration is business friendly. The administration appointed GE President Jeffrey Immelt to head the President’s Council on Jobs and Competitiveness. As a key member of US CAP, Immelt championed cap-and-trade that, if passed, would have resulted in special privileges and monetary benefits to select companies, especially GE. Many critics consider Immelt a leader of crony capitalism, where government favors politically selected corporations. President Obama also appointed the Midwest chairman of the Wall Street bank JP Morgan, Bill Daley, to be his new chief of staff.

In his State of the Union address, President Obama emphasized “investment” in American infrastructure. Critics quickly called “investment” another term for fiscally irresponsible spending. His emphasis on “clean energy standards” is being interpreted by some as “cap and trade” by another name.

In an article published in the Wall Street Journal, President Obama identified the new fuel efficiency standards for automobiles being promulgated by EPA as an example of smart regulation. These are being designed in conjunction with the Department of Transportation and the state of California. Forcing manufacturers to build cars that the public may not wish to buy is not particularly effective. Also, when announcing a review of regulations, President Obama stated that the benefits of regulation include concepts such as “equity, human dignity, fairness, and distributive impacts.” Such vague terminology is hardly encouraging.

Further, Carol Browner announced she is leaving the White House as the Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change – a post not officially recognized. Ms. Browner is probably best known for her efforts as Administrator of EPA during the Clinton Administration, during which the EPA embarked upon many dubious studies, the most notorious of which was the environmental tobacco smoke (second hand tobacco smoke) study that massively lowered the standards of statistical epidemiology, making it virtually meaningless. Ms. Browner’s protégé, Lisa Jackson, continues as Administrator of EPA, and

other protégées continue at the California Air Resources Board. The last group now has new-found powers to help regulate the entire American auto industry.

Whether or not President Obama’s actions indicate a shift to policies promoting economic growth remains to be seen. Please see Articles # 1, #2, and #3 as well as articles under “EPA and other Regulators on the March.”

Proclamations that 2010 was the hottest year ever continue, with the World Meteorological Organization joining in. These proclamations are based on air-surface data, much of the original data are lost, and the data have been subject to extensive bureaucratic manipulation hidden from independent researchers. As stated in prior TWTWs, the University of Alabama, Huntsville, satellite data, that is published and readily available to independent researchers, indicates that 2010 was comparable to the prior hottest year in the satellite record, 1998. The satellite record started in 1979.

Joe D’Aleo wrote an excellent, fairly brief article explaining why the air-surface data are highly questionable and any proclamations using them are doubtful. Please see Article # 5.

As the cold continues to grip the eastern US, with many heavy snow storms, as well as northern Europe, the public is becoming increasingly disenchanted by the climate scientists and their global warming predictions. The tenuous explanations of how warming causes cooling and more snow are far from compelling. Adding to this, Don Easterbrook continued his analysis of the GISP-2 ice borings from Greenland. He concludes that the 20th Century warming was neither particularly abrupt nor significant.

Please see articles under “Challenging the Orthodoxy” and “Extreme Weather.”

The Environmental Ministry of India released a study accepted for a publication in the peer reviewed publication, *Current Science*. The study by U.R. Ray reports that up to 40 percent of the recent warming can be explained by a decline in cosmic rays hitting the earth’s atmosphere which affects cloud cover. The IPCC and institutional alarmists ignore the influence of cosmic rays.

Environmental Minister Jairam Ramesh expressed continued concern of the failings of Western climate science which he believes is paralyzed by “group think”, rendering Western scientists incapable of recognizing the natural influences on climate. Please see the article in *The Hindu* under “Challenging the Orthodoxy.”

The web site for AAAS, which publishes the magazine “Science”, posted a study stating that global warming will increase agriculture production in the US and China. The study also stated that the IPCC projections of a 2.4 F increase in temperature will occur by 2020 rather than by 2100. The study was quickly denounced and pulled off the web site. Please see articles under “Food Issues.”

NUMBER OF THE WEEK: \$5,975/kW. That is what the U.S. Energy information Administration published as the estimated “Overnight Capital Cost” for Off-shore Wind, in its “Updated Capital Cost Estimates for Electricity Generation Plants, November, 2010.” The estimates are developed for plants of certain specific sizes explained in the study.

“Overnight Capital Cost” is a somewhat vague concept. It can be considered as the cost as if the plant suddenly appeared overnight, fully operational. It does not include the interest costs incurred during the planning and construction of the project.

The cost includes site work and all equipment and installation, indirect costs, fees, contingencies, and owners costs (excluding financing costs) but including developer’s profit. Further, the cost does not

include any special transmission lines needed to deliver the electricity over distance or any possible back-up such as that required for wind and solar.

Direct comparisons with other types of plants are not exact, but, if used cautiously, useful for approximation. For example, a Dual Unit Nuclear plant is estimated to have a capital cost of \$5,335/kW.

At first glance Offshore Wind, with a capital cost of \$5,975/kW, appears to be roughly comparable with nuclear. However, one must consider that the average annual production from wind is roughly 30% of nameplate capacity while, in the US, nuclear production is over 90% of nameplate capacity. Thus, as measured by average annual capacity, the electricity produced from offshore wind becomes very expensive, about three times that of the same output from nuclear.

This high cost is even before calculations of the high cost of transmission lines and expensive back-up for wind are included. Further, a nuclear plant has a life of 40 years or more while wind has a plant life of about 20 years. When considering the corrosive effects of salt spray, the plant life of offshore wind is probably well less than 20 years.

Again, one must be cautious when using the above numbers for direct comparison. The complete study, including operating and maintenance costs, is referenced under "Energy Issues." A fuller comparison between wind and nuclear by Kent Hawkins is referenced under "Whistling in the Wind."

Amplifications and Corrections: The January 15 TWTW carried an article by Richard Lindzen published in *Quadrant* in 2009. An updated version of the article is now posted in the Jan 15 TWTW.

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SEPP Science Editorial #2011-3

By S. Fred Singer, Chairman, Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)

Oreskes' O-15 Blunder

My article in the American Thinker

http://www.americanthinker.com/2010/12/second_hand_smoke_lung_cancer.html has been attacked in many blogs – which I have always ignored. I had pointed out that Prof. Naomi Oreskes shows a deplorable lack of scientific knowledge in her book *Merchants of Doubt*. I have now received a letter (below) from a retired French science administrator, in which he accuses the late Dr Frederick Seitz, a distinguished US physicist and former chairman of SEPP, of scientific ignorance. His highly misleading letter went to many addressees. I therefore decided to respond -- to set the record straight (see below).

From: "Earl Evleth" <evleth@wanadoo.fr>
Sent: Thursday, January 27, 2011 11:48 AM
To: "S. Singer" <singer@sepp.org>
Subject: WEBFORM: citation of Oreskes and Conway's book

You wrote in the American thinker article that

Oreskes' and Conway's science is as poor as their historical expertise. To cite just one example, their book blames lung cancer from cigarette smoking on the radioactive oxygen-15 isotope. They cannot explain, of course, how O-15 gets into cigarettes, or how it is created. They seem to be unaware that its half-life is only 122 seconds. In other words, they have no clue about the science, and apparently, they assume that the burning of tobacco creates isotopes - a remarkable discovery worthy of alchemists.

In fact they wrote:

After all, the natural environment was hardly carcinogen-free [Seitz] noted, and even "the oxygen in the air we breathe. plays a role in radiation-induced cancer".98 (Oxygen, like most elements, has a radioactive version - oxygen 15 - although it is not naturally occurring

My response to Evleth (Jan 27):

Sir

You are quite wrong!

And -- you are a scientific ignoramus.

You obviously don't know the difference between REACTIVE oxygen (which Seitz was referring to) and RADIOACTIVE oxygen. To paraphrase that ancient biblical teacher Hillel: "Go Google"

And furthermore, you are being despicably deceptive. The FULL quote on page 28 reads:

After all, the natural environment was hardly carcinogen-free, [Seitz] noted, and even "the oxygen in the air we breathe plays a role in radiation-induced cancer".98 (Oxygen, like most elements, has a radioactive version - oxygen-15 - although it is not naturally occurring.)99

Ref 99 refers to a paper by Ter-Pergossian that discusses the use of O-15 as a tracer in respiration studies. By deleting '99' you tried to make it appear as if Seitz said that O-15 was the cause of cancer.

In fact, the sentence in parentheses is a comment added by Oreskes/Conway.

Therefore, I stick with my assertion that Oreskes/Conway are as incompetent in science as they are in historical studies.

To emphasize my point, I refer you to page 29 [of *Merchants of Doubt*] where they refer to beryllium as a HEAVY METAL.

S. Fred Singer, PhD
Chairman, SEPP
singer@sepp.org

[Beryllium has an atomic number of 4 and atomic weight of 9]

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ARTICLES:

For the numbered articles below please see: **www.sepp.org**.

1. Toward a 21st-Century Regulatory System

If the FDA deems saccharin safe enough for coffee, than the EPA should not treat it as hazardous waste
By Barack Obama, WSJ, Jan 18, 2011

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703396604576088272112103698.html>

[SEPP Comment: Forcing manufacturers to produce automobiles few wish to buy is "smart regulation" ?]

2. Obama's Orwellian Language

Editorial, IBD, Jan 25, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=560909&p=1>

3. Cap and Trade Returns From the Grave

The president's plans for 'clean energy standards' amount to carbon control by other means

By Kimberley Strassel, WSJ, Jan 28, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703893104576108501552298070.html?mod=djemEditorialPage_h

4. Land of Milk and Regulation

Preventing the next dairy farm oil slick

Editorial, WSJ, Jan 27, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704698004576104040647573056.html?mod=djemEditorialPage_h

[SEPP Comment: Using laws to designed for the petroleum industry to regulate the dairy industry.]

5. Is It Really The Warmest Ever?

By Joseph D'Aleo, Energy Tribune, Jan 18, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.energytribune.com//articles.cfm/6440/Is-It-Really-The-Warmest-Ever?>

6. Solar Spectacle

Renewable energy's state capitalists

Editorial, WSJ, Jan 22, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704754304576096153914191870.html?mod=djemEditorialPage_h

7. Learn From China on Solar Policy

By Rhone Resch, Letter, WSJ, Jan 22, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704881304576093973153612478.html?mod=ITP_opinion_1

[SEPP Comment: See above editorial.]

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Climategate Continued

Responses to Trenberth's AMS Bile

By Eschenbach, Motl & McIntyre, SPPI, Jan 18, 2011

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/reprint/responses_to_trenberths_ams_bile.html

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Magnitude and rate of Climate Changes

By Don Easterbrook, SPPI, Jan 26, 2011

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/originals/magnitude_and_rate_of_climate_changes.html

"Temperature changes recorded in the GISP2 ice core from the Greenland Ice Sheet show that the global warming experienced during the past century pales into insignificance when compared to the magnitude of profound climate reversals over the past 25,000 years."

Cosmic rays contribute 40 p.c. to global warming: study

By Priscilla Jabaraj, The Hindu, Jan 21, 2011 [H/t Marc Morano, Climate Depot]

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/article1107174.ece>

"There is a groupthink in climate science today. Anyone who raises alternative climate theories is immediately branded as a climate atheist in an atmosphere of climate evangelists," he said. "Climate

science is incredibly more complex than [developed countries] negotiators make it out to be... Climate science should not be driven by the West. We should not always be dependent on outside reports.”

Defenders of the Orthodoxy

Cold Jumps Arctic ‘Fence,’ Stoking Winter’s Fury

By Justin Gillis, NYT, Jan 24, 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/25/science/earth/25cold.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha22>

Man Has Been Provoking Climate Change For Thousands Of Years

By Staff Writers, Terra Daily, Jan 27, 2011 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Man_Has_Been_Provoking_Climate_Change_For_Thousands_Of_Years_999.html

[SEPP Comment: IPCC reports do not support the claim that by 6000 BC, humans were causing significant accumulations of atmospheric carbon dioxide. What does this do to the “hockeystick”?]

NASA extremist advocates U.S. decline

Radical green James Hansen pushes Chinese war on American economy

Editorial, Washington Times, Jan 19, 2011 [H/t Bud Bromley]

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jan/19/nasa-extremist-advocates-us-decline/>

Extreme Weather

Five Reasons the Planet May Not Be Its Hottest Ever

By Staff Writers, FOX News, Jan 24, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2011/01/24/planet-hottest-ever-global-warming/>

2010 Temperature Record?

The Scientific Alliance, [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/2010-temperature-record>

The Claim 2010 is 2nd warmest year on record is delusional, irrelevant & disingenuous – the last gasp of the failed global warming cult

By Piers Corbyn, Weather Action, Jan 21, 2011 [H/t Anne Debeil]

<http://www.weatheraction.com/displayarticle.asp?a=299&c=5>

Freezing Winters In Europe Could Be The Norm

By Olivier Lejune, GWPF, Jan 20, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://thegwpf.org/the-climate-record/2269-freezing-winters-in-europe-could-be-the-norm.html>

Cap-and-Trade by Any Other Name

Carol Browner Goes, Draconian Policies Stay

Editorial, IBD, Jan 26, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/561084/201101261913/Carol-Browner-Goes-Draconian-Policies-Stay.htm>

Obama Recycles Waxman-Markey Utility Sector Target-Neglects to Inform Congress, Public

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming.org, Jan 26, 2011

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2011/01/26/obama-recycles-waxman-markey-utility-sector-target-neglects-to-inform-congress-public/>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

Obama's regulatory window dressing versus real reform

By Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, Jan 27, 2011

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/columnists/2011/01/ron-arnold-obamas-regulatory-window-dressing-versus-real-reform>

[SEPP Comment: Agencies must consider "equity, human dignity, fairness, and distributive impacts" as benefits of regulation.]

Obama's regulation pledge does not pass the laugh test

By Iain Murray, Washington Examiner, Jan 18, 2011 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/blogs/opinion-zone/2011/01/obamas-regulation-pledge-doesnt-pass-laugh-test#ixzz1BQQbSBxf>

New rules would cut thousands of coal jobs

By Associated Press, Washington Times, Jan 26, 2011

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2011/jan/26/new-rules-would-cut-thousands-of-coal-jobs/>

"EPA Expands Climate Agenda to the Current Fleet of Power Plants and Refineries" – VanNess Feldman

By Marlo Lewis, Global Warming, Jan 20, 2011

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2011/01/20/epa-expands-climate-agenda-to-the-current-fleet-of-power-plants-and-refineries-vanness-feldman/>

Court Denies EPA Extension for MACT Boiler Rules

By Staff Writers, Power News, Jan 26, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3407.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2130046&hq_l=7&hq_v=5e66050d0

Freshmen senators slam EPA boiler plan

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Jan 28, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/141041-freshman-senators-slam-epas-proposed-boiler-rule>

EPA revokes permit for mine, official resigns rather than face criticism

By Ron Arnold, Washington Examiner, Jan 20, 2011 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/local/dc/2011/01/epa-revokes-permit-mine-official-resigns-rather-face-criticism>

California and EPA will align timeline on fuel economy standards

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Jan 24, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/139747-epa-will-align-fuel-economy-standards-timeline-with-california>

EPA to listen to electric, oil industry concerns about climate rules

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Jan 28, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/140993-epa-to-listen-to-electric-oil-industry-concerns-about-climate-rules>

[SEPP Comment: A chance to testify for those who so desire.]

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

The New Light Bulbs Lose a Little Shine

Compact Fluorescent Lamps Burn Out Faster Than Expected, Limiting Energy Savings in California's Efficiency Program

By Rebecca Smith, WSJ, Jan 19, 2011

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704259704576033890595565026.html>

[SEPP Comment: May be behind a pay wall.]

Austerity pulling plug on Europe's green subsidies

By Eric Reguly, Globe and Mail, Jan 26, 2011 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/commentary/eric-reguly/austerity-pulling-plug-on-europes-green-subsidies/article1883888/>

EU Carbon Market Suffers Further Setback

By Alessandro Torello and Sean Carney, WSJ, Jan 28, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703956604576109272255053468.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines

EU Energy Orwellianism: Ignorance Is Strength

By Carlo Stagnaro, Master Resource, Jan 21, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/>

[SEPP Comment: Obtaining reliable data on the costs and total subsidies to subsidized industries is difficult, and it should not be.]

Federal Government Teaching Farmers to Participate in 'Carbon Markets' that Don't Exist Yet

By Matt Cover, CNSNews, Jan 21, 2011 [H/t Catherine French]

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/federal-government-teaching-farmers-part>

France's Solar Bubble Pops

By Carl Shockley, Planet Gore, Jan 20, 2011

<http://www.nationalreview.com/planet-gore/257549/france-s-solar-bubble-pops-carl-shockley>

Energy Issues

Updated Capital Cost Estimates for Electricity Generation Plants

U.S. Energy Information Administration, November, 2010

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oiaf/beck_plantcosts/pdf/updatedplantcosts.pdf

Obama's War On Coal

Editorial, IBD, Jan 18, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/560155/201101181901/Obamas-War-On-Coal.aspx>

Obama: Ramp Up Clean Energy – Including Clean Coal and Natural Gas Power

By Staff Writers, Power News, Jan 26, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3406.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2130046&hq_l=4&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: If not clearly defined, clean coal can be an elusive concept.]

Cold truths about electric cars' cold-weather shortcomings

By Charles Lane, Washington Post, Jan 28, 2011 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/01/27/AR2011012706170.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

[SEPP Comment: The chemical reactions in chemical batteries slow in cold weather. What about the heater, defroster, windshield wipers, etc.?)

Alternative Fuels Don't benefit the Military, a RAND Report Says

By Tom Zeller, NYT, Jan 25, 2011

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/25/business/energy-environment/25fuel.html?_r=1&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha25

China Ups Ante On Rare-Earth Metals

By William O'Keffe, IBD, Jan 20, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/560382/201101201828/China-Ups-Ante-On-Rare-Earth-Metals.aspx>

Whistling in the Wind

Windpower Emissions: Kleekamp Critique

(Part III – Cost of Wind and Nuclear Plants)

By Kent Hawkins, Master Resource, Jan 26, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/01/kleekamp-part-iii/#more-13751>

Wind Energy Deal Blows Away

By Paul Chesser, American Spectator, Jan 25, 2011 [H/t Randy Randol]

<http://spectator.org/blog/2011/01/25/wind-energy-deal-blows-away>

Oh Mann!

Yes, Virginia, A Climate Cover-Up

Editorial, IBD, Jan 20, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/560453/201101201853/Yes-Virginia-A-Climate-Cover-Up.aspx>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

For a full list of articles see www.NIPCCreport.org

Interactive Effects of Elevated CO₂, Excessive Warmth and Water Stress on Photosynthesis and Growth of Canola

Reference: Qaderi, M.M., Kurepin, L.V. and Reid, D.M. 2006. Growth and physiological responses of canola (*Brassica napus*) to three components of global climate change: temperature, carbon dioxide and drought. *Physiologia Plantarum* **128**: 710-721.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/jan/26jan2011a6.html>

The Fate of Tropical Rainforests in a Super CO₂ – Enriched and Warmer World

Reference: Jaramillo, C., Ochoa, D., Conteras, L., Pagani, M., Carvajal-Ortiz, H., Pratt, L.M., Krishnan, S., Cardona, A., Romero, M., Quiroz, L., Rodriguez, G., Rueda, M.J., de la Parra, F., Moron, S., Green, W., Bayona, G., Montes, C., Quintero, O., Ramirez, R., Mora, G., Schouten, S., Bermudez, H., Navarrete, R., Parra, F., Alvaran, M., Osorno, J., Crowley, J.L., Valencia, V. and Vervoort, J. 2010. Effects of rapid global warming at the Paleocene-Eocene boundary on neotropical vegetation. *Science* **330**: 957-961.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/jan/26jan2011a4.html>

Climate Models Fail to Match Observed Historical Data

Reference: Anagnostopoulos, G.G., Koutsoyiannis, D., Christofides, A., Efstradiadis, A. and Mamassis, N. 2010. A comparison of local and aggregated climate model outputs with observed data. *Hydrological Sciences Journal* **55**: 1094-1110.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/jan/25jan2011a5.html>

Red Wines of the Future

Reference: Goncalves, B., Falco, V., Moutinho-Pereira, J., Bacelar, E., Peixoto, F. and Correia, C. 2009. Effects of elevated CO₂ on grapevine (*Vitis vinifera* L.): Volatile composition, phenolic content, and *in vitro* antioxidant activity of red wine. *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry* 57: 265-273.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/jan/20jan2011a3.html>

Food Issues

The Only Way To Go Green

Editorial, IBD, Jan 14, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/560009/201101141911/Editorial-The-Only-Way-To-Go-Green.aspx>

Climate change could boost crops in US, China

AFP Staff Writer, Manila Bulletin, Jan 20, 2011 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://www.mb.com.ph/articles/299508/climate-change-could-boost-crops-us-china>

Climate change study had ‘significant errors’: experts

By Kerry Sheridan, Yahoo, Jan 19, 2011 [H/t Catherine French]

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20110119/ts_afp/climatewarmingfood_20110119163335

Other Scientific Issues

Price of Junk Science

Editorial, IBD, Jan 24, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=560755&p=1>

Fields, Alternative Medicine, and Physics

By Eugenie Mielczarek, Science Based Medicine, May 27, 2010

<http://www.sciencebasedmedicine.org/?p=5018>

[SEPP Comment: Subsidizing magnetic healing and similar “medical” research.]

Other Issues that May Be Of Interest

The population timebomb is a myth

The doom-sayers are becoming more fashionable just as experts are coming to the view it has all been one giant false alarm.

By Dominic Lawson, Independent, Jan 18, 2011 [H/t Cooler Heads Digest]

<http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/commentators/dominic-lawson/dominic-lawson-the-population-timebomb-is-a-myth-2186968.html>

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

The World is sinking: Dubai islands ‘falling into the sea’

The islands were intended as the ultimate luxury possession, even for Dubai.

By Richard Spencer, Telegraph, UK, Jan 20, 2011 [H/t Malcolm Ross]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/dubai/8271643/The-World-is-sinking-Dubai-islands-falling-into-the-sea.html>

Eight Botched Environmental Forecasts

By Maxim Lott, FOX News, Dec 30, 2010

<http://www.foxnews.com/scitech/2010/12/30/botched-environmental-forecasts/>

Solving wind intermittency in Europe

By Jason Deign, Wind Energy Update, Jan 21, 2011

http://social.windenergyupdate.com/industry-insight/solving-wind-intermittency-europe?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=week%2B3&utm_campaign=WEU

[SEPP Comment: *Once the political slogan was a chicken in every pot, now it is a battery of batteries in every garage.*]

London to Edinburg by electric car: it was quicker by stagecoach

The BBC's stunt of taking an electric Mini to Edinburgh reveals just how impractical rechargeable cars are

By Christopher Booker, Telegraph, UK, Jan 28, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/christopherbooker/8262095/London-to-Edinburgh-by-electric-car-it-was-quicker-by-stagecoach.html>

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ARTICLES:

1. Toward a 21st-Century Regulatory System

If the FDA deems saccharin safe enough for coffee, than the EPA should not treat it as hazardous waste
By Barack Obama, WSJ, Jan 18, 2011

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703396604576088272112103698.html>

[SEPP Comment: *Forcing manufacturers to produce automobiles consumers may no desire to buy is "smart regulation"?*]

For two centuries, America's free market has not only been the source of dazzling ideas and path-breaking products, it has also been the greatest force for prosperity the world has ever known. That vibrant entrepreneurialism is the key to our continued global leadership and the success of our people. But throughout our history, one of the reasons the free market has worked is that we have sought the proper balance. We have preserved freedom of commerce while applying those rules and regulations necessary to protect the public against threats to our health and safety and to safeguard people and businesses from abuse.

From child labor laws to the Clean Air Act to our most recent strictures against hidden fees and penalties by credit card companies, we have, from time to time, embraced common sense rules of the road that strengthen our country without unduly interfering with the pursuit of progress and the growth of our economy.

Sometimes, those rules have gotten out of balance, placing unreasonable burdens on business—burdens that have stifled innovation and have had a chilling effect on growth and jobs. At other times, we have failed to meet our basic responsibility to protect the public interest, leading to disastrous consequences. Such was the case in the run-up to the financial crisis from which we are still recovering. There, a lack of proper oversight and transparency nearly led to the collapse of the financial markets and a full-scale Depression.

Over the past two years, the goal of my administration has been to strike the right balance. And today, I am signing an executive order that makes clear that this is the operating principle of our government.

This order requires that federal agencies ensure that regulations protect our safety, health and environment while promoting economic growth. And it orders a government-wide review of the rules already on the books to remove outdated regulations that stifle job creation and make our economy less competitive. It's a review that will help bring order to regulations that have become a patchwork of

overlapping rules, the result of tinkering by administrations and legislators of both parties and the influence of special interests in Washington over decades.

Where necessary, we won't shy away from addressing obvious gaps: new safety rules for infant formula; procedures to stop preventable infections in hospitals; efforts to target chronic violators of workplace safety laws. But we are also making it our mission to root out regulations that conflict, that are not worth the cost, or that are just plain dumb.

For instance, the FDA has long considered saccharin, the artificial sweetener, safe for people to consume. Yet for years, the EPA made companies treat saccharin like other dangerous chemicals. Well, if it goes in your coffee, it is not hazardous waste. The EPA wisely eliminated this rule last month.

But creating a 21st-century regulatory system is about more than which rules to add and which rules to subtract. As the executive order I am signing makes clear, we are seeking more affordable, less intrusive means to achieve the same ends—giving careful consideration to benefits and costs. This means writing rules with more input from experts, businesses and ordinary citizens. It means using disclosure as a tool to inform consumers of their choices, rather than restricting those choices. And it means making sure the government does more of its work online, just like companies are doing.

We're also getting rid of absurd and unnecessary paperwork requirements that waste time and money. We're looking at the system as a whole to make sure we avoid excessive, inconsistent and redundant regulation. And finally, today I am directing federal agencies to do more to account for—and reduce—the burdens regulations may place on small businesses. Small firms drive growth and create most new jobs in this country. We need to make sure nothing stands in their way.

One important example of this overall approach is the fuel-economy standards for cars and trucks. When I took office, the country faced years of litigation and confusion because of conflicting rules set by Congress, federal regulators and states.

The EPA and the Department of Transportation worked with auto makers, labor unions, states like California, and environmental advocates this past spring to turn a tangle of rules into one aggressive new standard. It was a victory for car companies that wanted regulatory certainty; for consumers who will pay less at the pump; for our security, as we save 1.8 billion barrels of oil; and for the environment as we reduce pollution. Another example: Tomorrow the FDA will lay out a new effort to improve the process for approving medical devices, to keep patients safer while getting innovative and life-saving products to market faster.

Despite a lot of heated rhetoric, our efforts over the past two years to modernize our regulations have led to smarter—and in some cases tougher—rules to protect our health, safety and environment. Yet according to current estimates of their economic impact, the benefits of these regulations exceed their costs by billions of dollars.

This is the lesson of our history: Our economy is not a zero-sum game. Regulations do have costs; often, as a country, we have to make tough decisions about whether those costs are necessary. But what is clear is that we can strike the right balance. We can make our economy stronger and more competitive, while meeting our fundamental responsibilities to one another.

Mr. Obama is president of the United States.

2. Obama's Orwellian Language

Editorial, IBD, Jan 25, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article.aspx?id=560909&p=1>

War Of Words: Politicians of every stripe have long known that controlling the language of political conflict wins half the battle. The president cannot be allowed to misrepresent his record of fiscal irresponsibility.

Two years before writing "1984," George Orwell wrote an essay titled "Politics and the English Language." World War II had just ended and this British socialist with no utopian misconceptions about Josef Stalin's Soviet totalitarianism to the east believed that "the present political chaos is connected with the decay of language, and that one can probably bring about some improvement by starting at the verbal end."

In "1984," the great warning novel of a dark future where the party has total authority over society, Orwell showed how a regime can control people through the perversion of words. Engraved on the wall of the mythical Oceania's "Ministry of Truth" are the slogans "War is Peace," "Freedom is Slavery" and "Ignorance is Strength."

A new slogan can now be added to that wall: "Spending is Investment."

Orwell pointed out that "political language — and with variations this is true of all political parties, from Conservatives to Anarchists — is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

Sad to say, a great deal of the wind delivered by President Obama in his State of the Union address contained little solid factual analysis. His call to extend the gimmicky partial freeze on a fraction of discretionary domestic spending and cut the Pentagon budget by nearly \$80 billion amounts to a soggy Band-Aid applied to a hemorrhage.

It was a year ago, in the last State of the Union address, that the president called for some fiscal discipline in a small portion of the federal budget and increased transparency on congressional earmarks — while simultaneously adding \$70 billion in new federal spending, or "investment," as the president Orwellianishly calls his big spending.

This time around, with the irritation of a Republican-controlled House of Representatives, the president is defiantly proposing more of the same — spending increases for education, energy and infrastructure on top of the already massive spikes in spending on those areas that have already taken place on his watch.

These are, of course, not investments. They are "simply an argument for bigger government," as Keith Hennessey, chief of the White House National Economic Council during the George W. Bush administration, noted when he reviewed Obama's speech on "investment" at Carnegie-Mellon University last June.

In that lecture, Obama described the GOP's vision as one in which "government has little or no role to play in helping this nation meet our collective challenges ... the last administration called this recycled idea "The Ownership Society."

But it was this president and the Democratic Congress that agreed to spend trillions on a taxpayer-financed stimulus that didn't stimulate job growth, and pushed health care "reform" in which the federal regulatory behemoth takes over the private health insurance industry and sends insurance premiums skyrocketing when the promise was that they would be brought down.

The "investment" the president touted Tuesday night is the opposite of true investment. It is Uncle Sam maxing out all of his unborn nieces' and nephews' credit cards in exchange for a one-way ticket to the poorhouse, a destination that is getting closer.

3. Cap and Trade Returns From the Grave

The president's plans for 'clean energy standards' amount to carbon control by other means

By Kimberley Strassell, WSJ, Jan 28, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703893104576108501552298070.html?mod=djemEditorialPage_h

Cap and trade is dead. Long live cap and trade.

The president presented his new, conciliatory face to the nation this week, and his State of the Union was as notable for what it didn't include as what it did. He uttered not one word about global warming, a comprehensive climate bill, or his regulatory attempts to reduce carbon. Combined with his decision to give the axe to controversial climate czar Carol Browner, political analysts took all this as further proof that Barack Obama was moving to the middle, making nice with Republicans.

Snort. Guffaw. Chortle.

Listen carefully to Mr. Obama's speech and you realize he spent plenty of it on carbon controls. He just used a different vocabulary. If the president can't get carbon restrictions via cap and trade, he'll get them instead with his new proposal for a "clean energy" standard. Clean energy, after all, sounds better to the public ear, and he might just be able to lure, or snooker, some Republicans into going along.

The official end of cap and trade, and Mrs. Browner, wasn't conciliation—it was necessity. The public now understands that cap and trade is an economy killer, and no small number of Democrats lost their seats in midterms for supporting it. Few in the party want to take it up again, and House Republicans won't let it pass. Mr. Obama would be crazy to continue calling for it.

Mrs. Browner, for her part, had become a political liability. As czar, she's had sweeping control over administration policy—all of it unaccountable. This worked under a Democratic Congress, but House Republicans had made clear they intended to call her to testify. This had the makings of an ugly fight over executive privilege and would have forced the White House to defend a lack of transparency. Better to let the lightning rod go.

But Mr. Obama has no intention of letting go of his carbon-free world. He instead went to plan B. Specifically, he called in his speech for the nation to "join" him in a "new goal: by 2035, 80% of America's electricity will come from clean energy sources." What the president was in essence calling for—in happier, fuzzier, broader language—is what policy wonks refer to as a "renewable portfolio standard." This is a government mandate requiring that utilities produce annually a specific amount of their electricity from renewable sources—wind, solar, biofuels.

It's also cap and trade by another name. Consider: The goal of cap and trade is to impose crushing taxes on fossil fuels—oil, coal, natural gas—thereby forcing utilities to switch to costly renewables. Under Mr. Obama's new proposal, the government skips the tax part and outright requires the use of costly renewables. The result is the same: dramatically higher energy prices, from carbon-free sources. Now you know why even climate warrior John Kerry was so sanguine about the president's failure to say "climate change" in his speech. "I'm very sympathetic," said the Massachusetts senator, who clearly got the strategy memo.

Many Republicans understand the situation. Michigan Rep. Fred Upton, chair of House Energy and Commerce, put out a statement following the speech that insisted "the answer is not to hyper-subsidize preferred industries or to force consumers and job creators to purchase energy they can't afford." Reached on the phone, Mr. Upton elaborated, telling me the president's remarks "smell like cap and trade all over again." He noted that 28 states already have their own renewable standards and so "why have a federal mandate?"

Then again, some Republicans—the self-styled energy progressives—have let it be known they'd be open to a new government diktat, if only the price is right. South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham has noodled with legislation to require an energy standard that includes nuclear energy (like that produced in his home state) along with renewables. Indiana Sen. Dick Lugar has floated what he calls a "diverse" energy standard that would mandate renewables, nuclear and . . . coal with carbon sequestration. (Indiana relies on coal.)

This is why Mr. Obama took care in his speech to refer broadly to a "clean energy" standard and make clear he was open to including in it "nuclear" and "clean coal"—along with renewables. He'll lure Republicans into negotiations, then cement their support with lavish energy pork for their home-state nuclear, clean-coal, wind, biofuels and solar projects. As a bonus, the plan gives cover to nervous coal state Democrats.

What the White House also knows—as do most sensible people—is that these promises mean little. The president has made grand nuclear gestures, but his regulators continue to sit on projects. Clean coal remains a pipe dream. Here's to betting that if and when the president's "clean energy" standard kicks in, the only mandated sources utilities have to choose from are wind, solar and biofuels.

The GOP has spent some long, sometimes uncomfortable, years explaining the perils of cap and trade. Yet they risk getting the same policy, all because they've yet to find the moxy to resist the "clean energy" drumbeat.

4. Land of Milk and Regulation

Preventing the next dairy farm oil slick

Editorial, WSJ, Jan 27, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704698004576104040647573056.html?mod=djemEditorialPage_h

[SEPP Comment: Using laws to designed for the petroleum industry to regulate the dairy industry.]

President Obama says he wants to purge regulations that are "just plain dumb," like his humorous State of the Union bit about salmon. So perhaps he should review a new rule that is supposed to prevent oil spills akin to the Gulf Coast disaster—at the nation's dairy farms.

Two weeks ago, the Environmental Protection Agency finalized a rule that subjects dairy producers to the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure program, which was created in 1970 to prevent oil discharges in navigable waters or near shorelines. Naturally, it usually applies to oil and natural gas outfits. But the EPA has discovered that milk contains "a percentage of animal fat, which is a non-petroleum oil," as the agency put it in the Federal Register.

In other words, the EPA thinks the next blowout may happen in rural Vermont or Wisconsin. Other dangerous pollution risks that somehow haven't made it onto the EPA docket include leaks from maple sugar taps and the vapors at Badger State breweries.

The EPA rule requires farms—as well as places that make cheese, butter, yogurt, ice cream and the like—to prepare and implement an emergency management plan in the event of a milk catastrophe. Among dozens of requirements, farmers must train first responders in cleanup protocol and build "containment facilities" such as dikes or berms to mitigate offshore dairy slicks.

These plans must be in place by November, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture is even running a \$3 million program "to help farmers and ranchers comply with on-farm oil spill regulations." You cannot make this stuff up.

The final rule is actually more lenient than the one the EPA originally proposed. The agency tried to claim jurisdiction over the design specifications of "milk containers and associated piping and appurtenances," until the industry pointed out that such equipment was already overseen by the Food and Drug Administration, the USDA and state inspectors. The EPA conceded, "While these measures are not specifically intended for oil spill prevention, we believe they may prevent discharges of oil in quantities that are harmful."

We appreciate Mr. Obama's call for more regulatory reason, but it would be more credible if one of his key agencies wasn't literally crying over unspilled milk.

5. Is It Really The Warmest Ever?

By Joseph D'Aleo, Energy Tribune, Jan 18, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/6440/Is-It-Really-The-Warmest-Ever?>

Both NOAA and NASA this month announced that 2010 was tied for the warmest year. The UK Climate Research Unit at East Anglia University proclaimed 2010 the second warmest year since 1850.

But after the incredibly cold and snowy winters in 2008/09 and 2009/10 and so far in 2010/11, those claims are falling on increasingly deaf ears. The public doubt about global warming has been increasing given the Climategate disclosures suggesting scientists have been 'cooking the books', especially when earlier promises of warm, snowless mid-latitude winters failed miserably.

Back on March 20, 2000, The Independent, a British newspaper, reported Dr. David Viner's of the UK's Climate Research Unit warning that within a few years snowfall will become "a very rare and exciting event." Indeed, Viner opined, "Children just aren't going to know what snow is."

Similarly, David Parker, at the UK's Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research, said that eventually British children could have only "virtual" experience of snow via movies and the Internet.

The last three winters in the UK were forecast by the UK Met Office to be mild and snowless. Instead, brutal cold and snow in the UK has the UK Met Office on their heels. Indeed the cold and snow was a throwback to the age of Dickens in the early 1800s. UK MPs called for Official Parliamentary Probe into whether the UKMO reliance on their ideology and CO2 models had biased their predictions.

In the United States, NOAA echoing the UN IPCC, claimed snow would retreat north with the storm tracks and major cities would get more rain and mild winters. The Union of Concerned Scientists said in 2004 scientists claim winters were becoming warmer and less snowy. In 2008, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. bemoaned that children would be robbed of the childhood joys of sledding and skiing in the DC area

due to global warming. A year later, the area set a new seasonal snowfall record with 5 to 6 feet of snow and sleds and skis were the only way to get around.

The winter of 2009/10 was the coldest ever in parts of the southeast, and in parts of Siberia and the coldest since 1977/78 or 1962/63 in many parts of the United States, Europe and Asia.

The spirits of alarmists and their cheerleaders in the media were buoyed by the hot summer in the eastern United States and western Russia even though that is the normal result when a strong La Nina follows on the heels of a strong El Nino winter. But as is usually the case in La Ninas, global cooling usually follows within 6 months. Indeed, temperatures plunged as winter approached and this past December (2010) was the second coldest in the entire Central England Temperature record extending back to 1659. It was the coldest ever December in diverse locations like Ireland, Sweden, and Florida.

Reluctantly, alarmists and their cheerleaders in the media changed their tune and the promise of warm and snowless winters with 'global warming' morphed into global warming means cold and snowy winters. ABC News even said cold and snowy winters would be the new norm because of global warming. Non sequiturs like that have sadly become 'the new norm' in the wacky world of the mainstream media.

In Australia, the government's Bureau of Meteorology and university alarmist scientists promised major drought and blocked dams and flood mitigation projects, but when devastating floods occurred this summer, they blamed that on global warming and again enviros and government agencies escaped the blame. Other scientists had warned that changes in the Pacific would lead to a return of the flood years like 1974, but they were ignored by agenda driven, green leaning government.

In fact environmentalists and alarmist scientists have reinvented global warming and now attribute all weather to global warming – cold, warm, drought and flood. They call it 'climate disruption'. But the climate has not been cooperating in a way that is convincing the public they have to sacrifice even more to stop a problem they don't sense is real. Just imagine if they knew how much they really would cost (trillions – several thousands of dollars per year per family) and how little these deep sacrifices would change the climate (not measureable).

Despite claims to the contrary, in recent years, global temperatures stopped warming. Even Phil Jones of the UK Climate Research Unit after Climategate admitted there has been no statistically significant warming since 1995 (15 years) and between 2002 and 2009, the global temperatures had declined 0.12C (0.22F).

To try and stop the bleeding, NOAA and NASA took steps to reduce or eliminate the cooling.

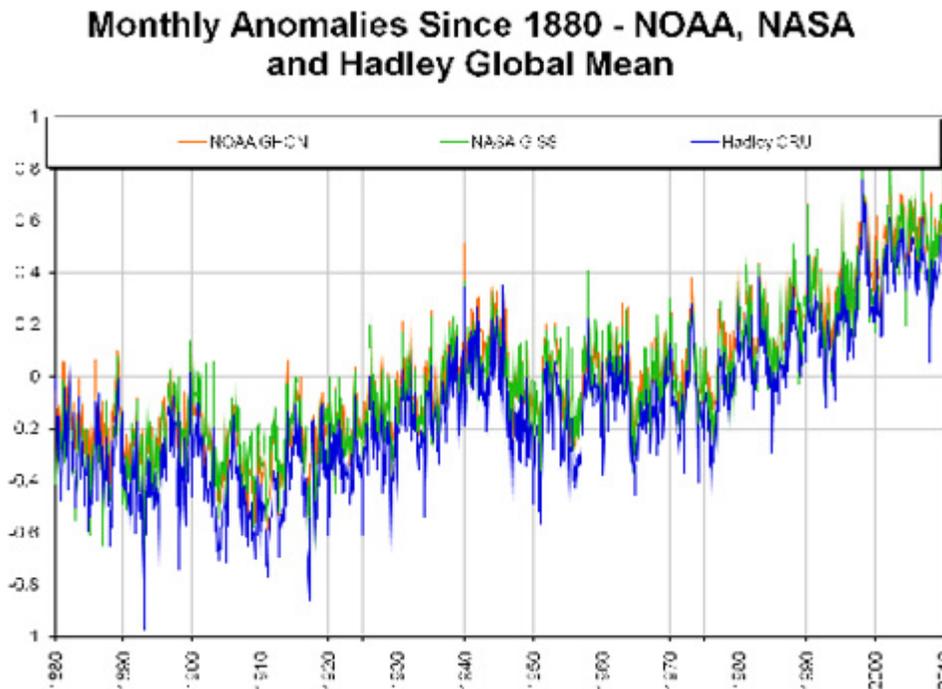
This aggravated what already was an already a bad situation. CRU data base programmer Ian 'Harry' Harris's frustrated rants in his Climategate log were eye-opening "*[The] hopeless state of their (CRU) data base. No uniform data integrity, it's just a catalogue of issues that continues to grow as they're found...There are hundreds if not thousands of pairs of dummy stations...and duplicates... Aarrggghh! There truly is no end in sight. This whole project is SUCH A MESS. No wonder I needed therapy!!*"

Furthermore, in a candid interview on the BBC, CRU's Director Phil Jones admitted his "surface temperature data are in such disarray they probably cannot be verified or replicated".

So should we avoid CRU and focus on NOAA and NASA. The answer is an unequivocal no.

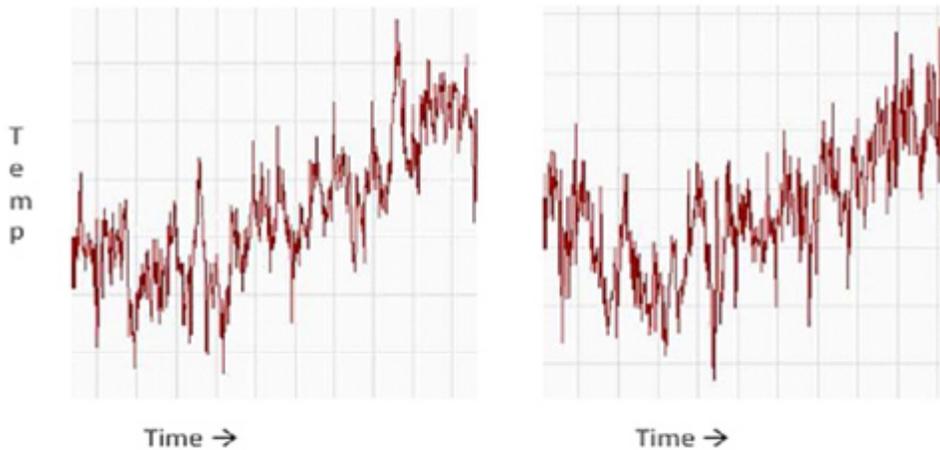
In a Climategate email, Phil Jones acknowledges that CRU mirrors the NOAA data. “Almost all the data we have in the CRU archive is exactly the same as in the Global Historical Climatology Network (GHCN) archive used by the NOAA National Climatic Data Center.” And NASA uses NOAA data applying their own adjustments. All three data bases suffer from the same flaws.

All have managed to extract a warming trend from data that suggests cyclical changes and little long term trend. See how the three data centers working off the same data have reconstructed the global temperature history. NASA in green show the warmest anomalies, CRU generally the lowest. Part of this is the base period for computing averages (NASA uses the cold 1951 to 1980 30 year period for normals, CRU 1961 to 1990 and NOAA the entire period of record).



All show a warming period from the 1920s to early 1940s, a cooling from the 1940s to 1970s another warming from late 1970s to around 1998, and then as Jones noted a flattening. The warming early in the century before the industrial boom was very similar to that from 1978 to 1998. The cooling post WWII was during the post war boom.

Global Average Temperature in Two Half Century Periods:
Which is 1895-1946 (Nature); Which is 1957-2008 (Us?)



Global average temperature and time scales are identical

Hadley CRUT3 global average temperature record

In the detailed working paper I coauthored with Anthony Watts and others we concluded: *There has clearly been evidence of some cyclical warming in recent decades, most notably 1979 to 1998. However, the global surface-station data is seriously compromised. The data suffers significant contamination by urbanization and other local factors such as land-use/land-cover changes. In a majority of cases studied, station siting does not meet the published criteria with contamination by very local heat sources. There was a major station dropout, which occurred suddenly around 1990 and a significant increase in missing monthly data in the stations that remained. (Note: this increases uncertainty – greatest in regions where they claim the warming is the greatest). There are huge uncertainties in ocean temperatures; no small issue, as oceans cover 71% of the earth's surface.*

These factors lead to significant uncertainty and a tendency for over-estimation of century-scale temperature trends. A conclusion from all findings suggest that global data bases are seriously flawed and can no longer be trusted to assess climate trends or rankings or validate model forecasts. And, consequently, such surface data should be ignored for decision making”.

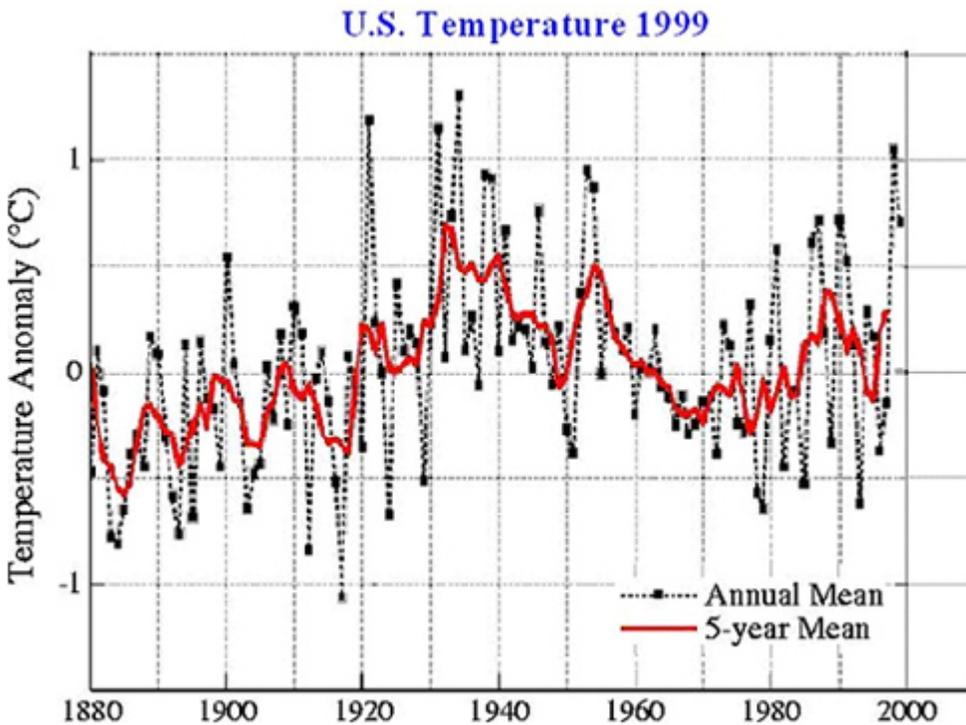
In this story, we will look at two of the best documented issues, urban contamination and poor siting of instruments.

Urban Heat Island

Everyone recognizes that the urban areas are warmer, especially at night than surrounding rural and suburban areas. Airports originally on the outskirts of urban areas have seen cities grow around them and temperatures artificially rise. Tim Oke (1973) and Torok et al. (2003), experimentally determined the amount of contamination as a function of population. They found even a town of 1000 could produce an artificial warming of 2.2C (3.8F).

In the original NOAA US data base called USHCN version 1, NOAA (Karl 1988) used Oke’s work and others to develop an adjustment for urban heat island contamination. The combination of longer term station stability and this adjustment made that data base (1221 climate stations), the best in the world. The

data showed cyclical changes with warmth peaking in the 1930s and a cooling that bottomed out in the 1960s and 1970s and a modest warming thereafter falling short of the heat of the 1930s warm peak. This is a screen capture of the US annual temperatures from NOAA but posted on the NASA web site in 1999.



Indeed James Hansen in 1999 remarked correctly about this plot *"The U.S. has warmed during the past century, but the warming hardly exceeds year-to-year variability. Indeed, in the U.S. the warmest decade was the 1930s and the warmest year was 1934."*

NOAA and NASA had to constantly explain why their global data sets which had no such adjustment was showing warming and the US, not so much. NOAA began reducing the UHI around 2000 (noticed by state climatologists and seen in this analysis of New York City's Central Park data [here](#)) and then in USHCN version2, released for the US stations in 2009, the urban heat island adjustment was totally eliminated which resulted in an increase of almost 0.3F in warming trend since the 1930s. See animating GIF [here](#).

David Easterling, Chief of the Scientific Services Division at NOAA admitted in one of the NASA FOIA emails: *"One other fly in the ointment, we have a new adjustment scheme for USHCN (V2) that appears to **adjust out** some, if not most, of the "local" trend that includes land use change and urban warming."*

Brian Stone of Georgia Tech in a 2009 paper found *"Across the U.S. as a whole, approximately 50 percent of the warming that has occurred since 1950 is due to land use changes (usually in the form of clearing forest for crops or cities) rather than to the emission of greenhouse gases,"* said Stone. *"Most large U.S. cities, including Atlanta, are warming at more than twice the rate of the planet as a whole – a rate that is mostly attributable to land use change."*

NOAA used a paper by Peterson (2003) to justify the removal of the urban adjustment. [Steve McIntyre](#) challenged NOAA's Peterson (2003), who had said, *"Contrary to generally accepted wisdom, no statistically significant impact of urbanization could be found in annual temperatures"* by showing

that the difference between urban and rural temperatures for the full Peterson station set was 0.7°C and between temperatures in large cities and rural areas 2°C.

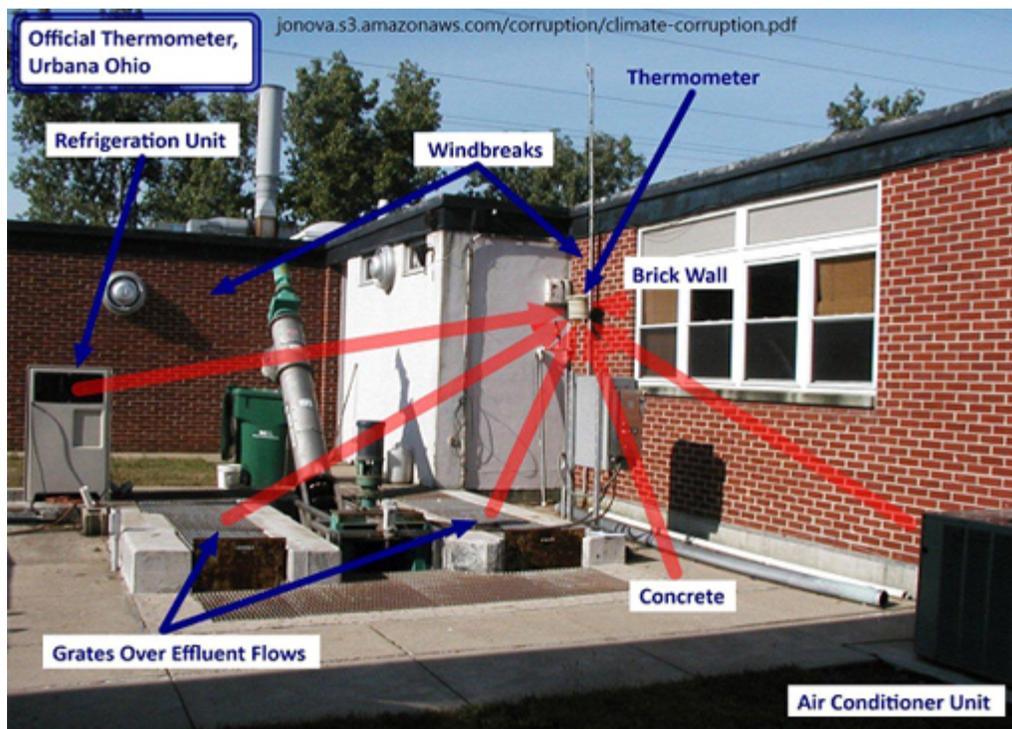
CRU had done the same for their global data using the findings of Jones (1990) and Wang (1990). The Jones and Wang papers in 1990 were shown by Keenan to be based on fabricated China data. In 2008 ironically Jones found that contamination by urbanization in China was a very non-trivial 1C per century but that did not cause the data centers to begin adjusting as that would have eliminated global warming.

Bad station siting

According to NOAA guidelines, climate temperature sensors are to be located away (100 feet or more) from local heat sources and sheltered from direct sunlight on the sensing element, while allowing for ventilation by the wind.

Watts found that 89 percent of 1000 plus U.S. ground temperature stations surveyed do not meet NOAA's published standards for distance between stations and adjacent heat sources, seriously compromising readings. "(Even) The raw temperature data produced by the ... stations are not sufficiently accurate to use in scientific studies or as a basis for public policy decisions," Watts concludes.

Just one example among thousands – Urbana, Ohio climate station is shown below with sensor surrounded by multiple heat sources.



NOAA first denied it was an issue in an internal talking points memo and then in a rushed 'pal' review paper (Menne 2009) but then asked the government for \$100 million to upgrade/correct the siting of 1,000 climate stations.

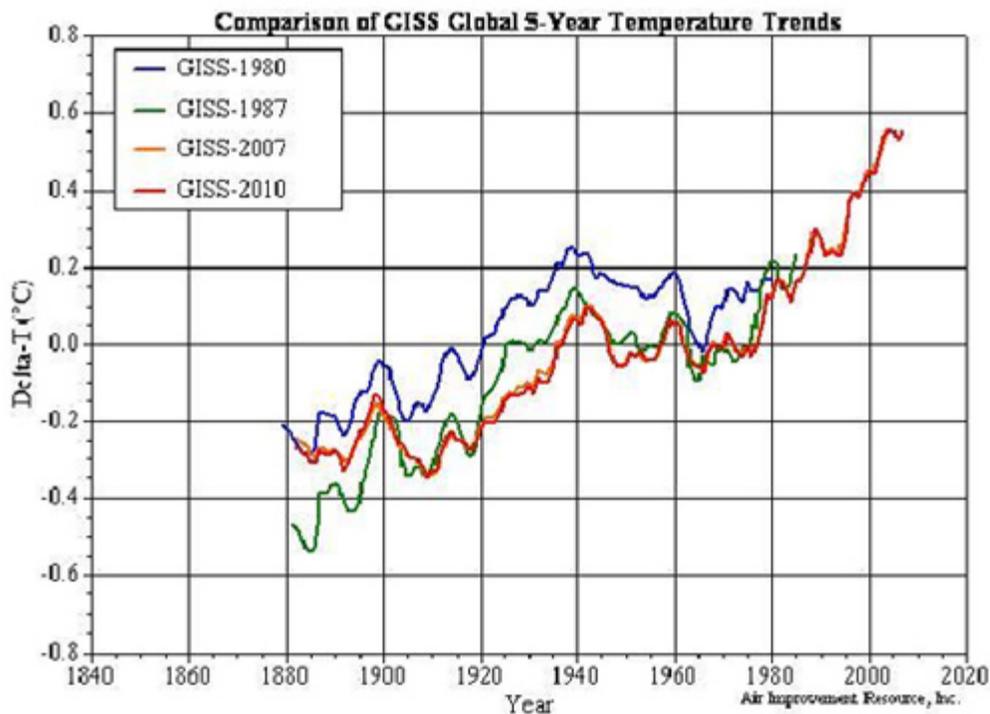
Indeed, numerous peer-reviewed papers catalogued here have estimated that these local issues with the observing networks may account for 30%, 50% or more of the warming shown since 1880.

STILL MORE ADJUSTMENTS

After the data with all its warts is collected, further adjustments are made, each producing more warming. MIT meteorologist Dr. Richard Lindzen commented “[W]hen data conflicts with models, a small coterie of scientists can be counted upon to modify the data” to agree with models’ projections.”

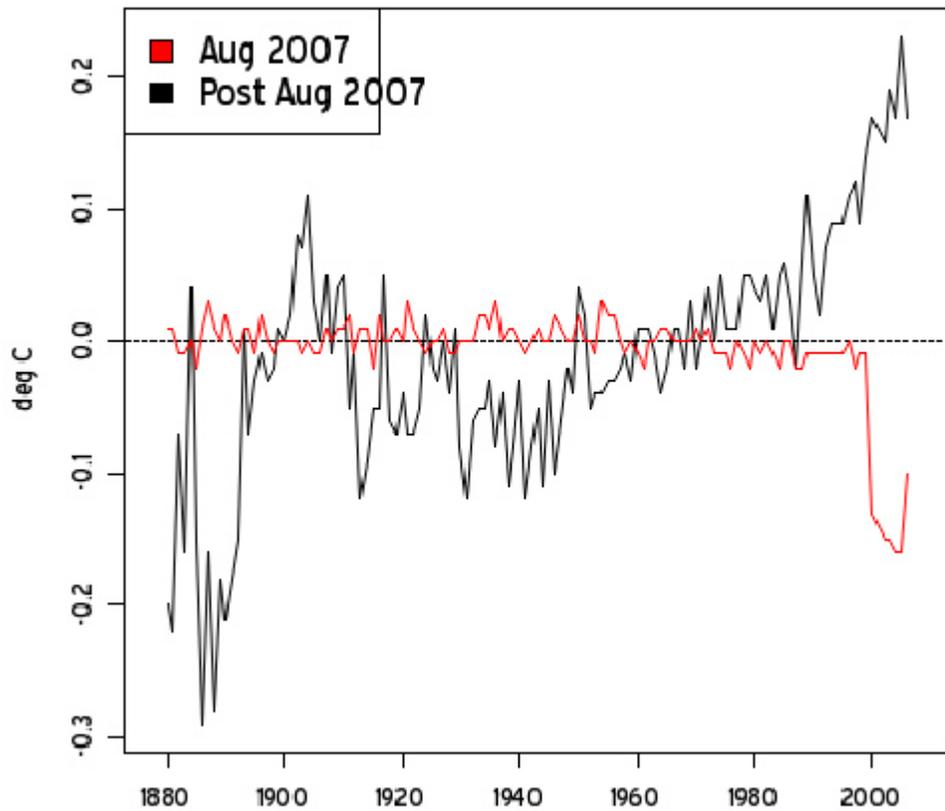
Over time in the global data bases, the warming trend has been steadily increasing. This has been accomplished by cooling off prior decades while increasing the warming in recent years. Many examples are provided in the paper and case studies [here](#).

For example, extracting old data from papers by James Hansen and comparing them with data downloaded from NASA’s GISS site in 2007 and 2010, we can see the progressive ‘man-made’ global warming (the men here though are at NASA). This is accomplished by making adjustments to the data and homogenizing data (blending urban with rural and good sited stations with bad sited) and then removing in 2007, the urban adjustment in the United States.



The frequency and direction of NASA US adjustments stepped up in 2007 as temperatures began to cool ([here](#)).

NASA (GISS) US48 Adjustments

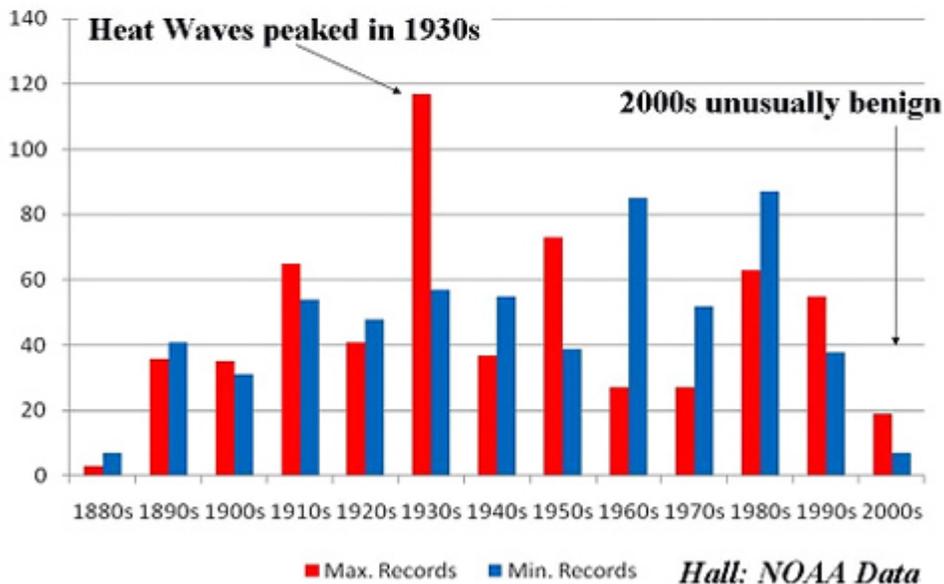


NASA/NOAA's homogenization process has been shown to significantly alter the trends in many stations where the siting and rural nature suggest the data is reliable. In fact, adjustments account for virtually all the trend in the data. Unadjusted data for the best sites/rural shows cyclical multi-decadal variations but no net long term trend as former NASA scientist Dr. Ed Long showed [here](#). He showed however that after adjustment, the rural data trend was made consistent with the urban data set with an artificial warming introduced. So in the data sets, urban warming is allowed to remain and the warm bias is artificially introduced into the rural and/or well sited data sets which in their unadjusted state show no warming.

In the graph above [from Climate Audit](#), the difference in adjustments made before (red) and after 2007 (black) is dramatic.

Record highs and lows are based on raw, unadjusted data. They show the pattern we find in raw unadjusted rural and well site stations, a cyclical change but no long term trend. They suggest the 1930s is still the warmest decade, as Hansen stated in 1999. This can be seen by looking city by city at the records. Here we look at state record highs and lows. It shows the decade with the highest and lowest temperature for the month and state through 2009. Instead of the warmest decade on record, the 2000s is shown to be unusually benign with fewer records than any decade since the 1880s.

U.S. State Maximum and Minimum Monthly Records by Decade



Though both NOAA and NASA have resisted FOIA requests for release of all the unadjusted data and documentation for all the adjustments made, that may change in the new congress. The Data Quality Act requires that any published data must be able to be replicated by independent audits. That is currently not possible given the resistance posed, despite promises of transparency.

Georgia Tech's Dr. Judith Curry's comments on Roger Pielke Jr.'s blog support such an independent effort: *"In my opinion, there needs to be a new independent effort to produce a global historical surface temperature dataset that is transparent and that includes expertise in statistics and computational science...The public has lost confidence in the data sets...Some efforts are underway in the blogosphere to examine the historical land surface data (e.g. such as GHCN), but even the GHCN data base has numerous inadequacies."*

How did we get here?

Dwight Eisenhower in his 1961 Farewell Address to the Nation warned: *"The prospect of domination of the nation's scholars by Federal employment, project allocations, and the power of money is ever present - and is gravely to be regarded."*

NOAA's Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenko, when she was president of AAAS in 1999, urged *"Urgent and unprecedented environmental and social changes challenge scientists to define a new social contract ... a commitment on the part of all scientists to devote their energies and talents to the most pressing problems of the day, in proportion to their importance, in exchange for public funding."*

NOAA and NASA are together receiving nearly a billion dollars in direct government climate research funding and up to \$600 million more from the Recovery Act of 2009. For that they are expected to support environmental, social and political agendas. You can see how quickly the political operatives and the media enablers respond to those press releases ([here](#)). In an act of unbelievable hypocrisy (and

perhaps desperation), Congressman Waxman even wants to challenge skeptic Pat Michael's (who testified in front of his majesty's committee) funding by industry groups, ignoring the clear government sponsored bias of the grant toting alarmists who testified in front of his committee. Instead of focusing on where skeptics get their money, the congress should be focusing on whether they can trust the global warming scientists in data centers, labs and most universities who have benefited to the tune of over \$73 billion in the last two decades.

Ronald Coase, Nobel Economic Sciences, said in 1991 "If we torture the data long enough, it will confess."

So is 2010 the warmest year?, the 2000s the warmest decade? ... Don't bet on it!

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Joseph D'Aleo (BS, MS Meteorology, University of Wisconsin, Doctoral Program at NYU, CCM, AMS Fellow) has over 35 years experience in professional meteorology. He was the first Director of Meteorology and co-founder of the cable TV Weather Channel. Mr. D'Aleo was Chief Meteorologist at Weather Services International Corporation and Senior Editor for WSI's popular *Intellicast.com* web site. He is a former college professor of Meteorology/ Climatology at Lyndon State College. He is the author of a *Resource Guide on El Nino and La Nina*. Mr. D'Aleo has frequently written about and made presentations on how research into ENSO and other atmospheric and oceanic phenomena has made skillful long-range forecasts possible and has helped develop statistical models using these global teleconnections which he and others use in forecasting for energy and agriculture traders. He has also studied, published and presented on the roles these cycles in the sun and oceans have played in multidecadal climate change. He is currently Executive Director of the International Climate and Environmental Change Assessment Project (<http://icecap.us>).

6. Solar Spectacle

Renewable energy's state capitalists

Editorial, WSJ, Jan 22, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704754304576096153914191870.html?mod=djemEditorialPage_h

One of the least edifying spectacles in American business is the sight of industry titans begging politicians for alms. We therefore direct your attention to today's nearby letter from Rhone Resch, the solar industry's man in Washington, for a classic of the genre.

Mr. Resch more or less avoids our previous editorial point that the closure of Evergreen Solar's Massachusetts plant will cost Bay State taxpayers upwards of \$50 million in fruitless subsidies. Instead, he pivots to make as raw a plea as you'll find for more taxpayer cash from Washington.

The reason? Well, China subsidizes its solar companies, so America should too. Mr. Resch overlooks that the U.S. already subsidizes solar power to the tune of \$24.34 a megawatt hour, according to an Energy Information Administration study based on 2007 data. That compares with subsidies of \$23.37 that year for wind, 44 cents for coal, 25 cents for natural gas and \$1.59 for nuclear power. We'd expect the subsidy gap would be even greater today between solar and wind power and other energy sources.

Beyond the taxpayer cost, Mr. Resch and his industry special-pleaders appear to want the U.S. to emulate the Chinese model of state-supported capitalism. So if the Chinese want to allocate capital to politically well-connected industries at the expense of the larger economy and citizenry, then we should punish Americans too.

Capitalism is supposed to be about risk-taking and bearing the consequences, win or lose. Lobbyists like Mr. Resch—and his industry bosses—give capitalists a bad name.

7. Learn From China on Solar Policy

By Rhone Resch, Letter, WSJ, Jan 22, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704881304576093973153612478.html?mod=ITP_opinion_1

[SEPP Comment: See above editorial.]

Your editorial "[Solar Power Eclipse](#)" (Jan. 18) on Evergreen Solar's announcement to relocate their Devens, Mass. manufacturing facility to China misses the point. The U.S. solar industry is dynamic and thriving. The fortunes of one company must not be used as a lens to view the entire industry. But consider the announcements in the last few weeks; three new U.S. solar manufacturing facilities will be constructed that will create 2,500 new domestic jobs in South Carolina, Mississippi and Oregon. These are on top of more than 50 new manufacturing facilities created in the U.S. since 2009. The industry expects an overall 26% increase in U.S. solar workers in 2011.

As you point out, China is offering solar companies considerable support to attract next-generation manufacturing. Chinese policy makers do not do this simply to subsidize the solar industry, but to make strategic investments to attract this rapidly expanding industry. These investments have worked. China is now the global leader in solar manufacturing.

Meanwhile, Congress has failed to take a similar long-term approach to support manufacturing. Some states, such as Massachusetts, have stepped in to try to fill the void. But without some help from Washington, it's hard to remain competitive with China in this global market. It's time for Congress to get serious about attracting new investments in U.S. manufacturing.

Rhone Resch
President and CEO
Solar Energy Industries Association
Washington

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