

**The Week That Was: 2012-05-19 (May 19, 2012)**  
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**The Science and Environmental Policy Project**

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**Quote of the Week:**

*Scientifically it is sheer absurdity to think we can get a nice climate by turning a CO2 adjustment knob.*  
Klaus-Eckar Puls, German physicist and meteorologist who supported the IPCC until he conducted his own investigation. [H/t Timothy Wise link under Challenging the Orthodoxy.]

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**Number of the Week:** \$68.4 Billion US

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**THIS WEEK:**

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

**Heartland Conference:** The Heartland Institute's Seventh International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC-7) will take place in Chicago, Illinois from Monday, May 21 to Wednesday, May 23, 2012 at the Hilton Chicago Hotel, 720 South Michigan Avenue. The event will follow the NATO Summit taking place in Chicago on May 19–21. The Theme is Real Science, Real Choices. Open to the public, registration is required. <http://climateconference.heartland.org/>

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**Once Venerable Institutions:** We continue to see publications by once venerable institutions overtaken by alarmist claims. According to the E&E reporter, the Scripps Institution of Oceanography produced a study claiming that warming will wipe out one-third of the California snowpack (Sierra Mountains) by 2050 and two-thirds by the end of the century. [TWTW was unable to locate the actual study on the Scripps web site.]

The claim was immediately repeated by officials at the California Air Resources Board (CARB). CARB has been one of the most active regulatory authorities in the nation, often using the scantiest scientific justification for its regulations. The implication is that the loss of the snowpack will have a disastrous effect on agriculture and urban areas that depend on the moisture from the Sierra Mountains. <http://www.arb.ca.gov/lispub/rss/displaypost.php?pno=5864>

No doubt based on climate models that have not been verified and validated, the study has a number of deficiencies that are exposed by a simple examination of the physical world. As ICECAP points out, in spite of 20<sup>th</sup> century warming, there has been no net change to the snowpack as measured at the Donner summit. The snowpack varies with the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO). Last year, the Donner summit had a record snowfall that remained well into the summer.

A second major deficiency is the failure to recognize that since the 1920s California has built a major system of dams to capture the moisture coming off the west side of the mountains. These serve two purposes. One is to stop the annual floods that devastated communities downstream; and, two, to provide irrigation water for the San Joaquin Valley (southern Central Valley) which is now a bountiful crop producing center, but, previously, was a desert in the summer. The officials responsible for the dams monitor the snowpack to determine how much they should draw down the water in anticipation for the spring floods. The plants, or urban areas, do not care if the moisture fell as snow or rain, as long as it is available when needed.

The formerly venerable *National Geographic* produced another alarmist article on global warming. Among other points, it failed to note that temperatures have not risen in over a decade, and Antarctica is not warming. If nature continues to ignore global climate models, such articles will contribute to the

decline in credibility of the magazine. Please see links under Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate or be Vague?

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**Science by Polls:** The publication, *Nature Climate Change*, published a study proclaiming that the American public is willing to accept a national clean energy standard (mandates). It is based on a political poll in which the authors claim a high level of confidence. It doesn't pass the sniff test. The authors claim that the mandate requiring that by 2035 80% of electricity coming from renewable sources will increase electricity prices to households by only \$48 to \$59 per year. A simple look at the change in electricity rates in European countries or US states that have adopted mandates demonstrates that the author's estimates are ridiculously low. Please see links under Questioning European Green and Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.

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**Solar Wars:** The US Commerce Department announced that it has found that Chinese firms dumping low cost photovoltaic solar panels in the US and has proposed import tariffs of 31 to 250% on these products. China has proposed to retaliate by examining US subsidies on alternative energy sources and perhaps impose import tariffs on US products. The dispute illustrates several issues. One, it reinforces the view that China heavily subsidized its domestic solar panel industry not so much for domestic consumption but for export. Two, it demonstrates the extent to which Washington is willing to protect an industry that produces unreliable, expensive electricity.

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**North Dakota:** In March, North Dakota became the second leading oil producing state in the US, exceeding Alaska. In less than a year it went from number 4 to 2 and in eight years from number 8 to 2. This increase is primarily due to hydraulic fracturing of oil bearing shale to extract high quality crude (tight oil). The production of the next two leading states, Alaska and California, has been severely limited by regulations by Washington and California. Please see Article # 1.

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**Corrections and Amplifications:** Last week's TWTW contained the statement: "...the Sierra Club has begun a campaign calling natural gas a dirty fuel. Of course, the objective is to cripple the economy by shutting down all forms of energy use and electric power generation." Reader Paul Kenyon correctly challenged the conclusion, asking for evidence. The conclusion is not based on announcements by the Sierra Club, but based upon its actions. It has, or is opposing, all major sources of electric power generation in the US: coal, hydro, nuclear, and, now, natural gas. Although oil is not used to produce electricity the Club opposes that as well. <http://www.sierraclub.org/goals/>. We appreciate all amplifications and corrections.

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**Number of the Week: \$68.4 Billion:** In a speech to the Senate on Thursday evening, Senator Inhofe revealed a new study by the Congressional Research Office reporting that between Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 and 2012, the US government will spend \$68.4 Billion on global warming / climate change issues. TWTW has not yet determined how well integrated this study is with the previous study from the General Accountability Office that the US spent \$107 Billion on global warming issues between FY 1998 and 2010. Global warming is big business in the US.

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**BOOK REVIEW:** *The Greatest Hoax: How the Global Warming Conspiracy Threatens Your Future* by U.S. Senator James Inhofe

Probably more than any one single individual, Senator Inhofe (R, OK) has prevented of cap-and-trade of carbon dioxide, or similar legislation, from being adopted by the US Congress. The task has often been a lonely one, during which Senator Inhofe demonstrated a willingness to contradict much of the establishment leadership, including those in his own party.

For over a decade, Senator Inhofe has faced the wrath of the environmental lobby. At the 2003 global warming conference of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), he was confronted with wanted-posters showing his face accompanied by the caption “The most dangerous man on the planet.” He was not intimidated. Instead, the “Renegade Conservative from Oklahoma” went to the desk of the National Environmental Trust, responsible for the posters, and thanked them for not misquoting him.

In a frank, plain-speaking style that is associated with his native state, Senator Inhofe explains why he entered politics, not his first choice of careers, and what motivated him to take highly unpopular positions, rather than getting along by playing along. In 2003, Inhofe became chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and established three principles for the work of the committee: “(1) it should rely on the most objective science, (2) it should consider costs on businesses and consumers, and (3) the bureaucracy should serve, not rule, the people.”

The effectiveness of Inhofe’s leadership was demonstrated in the fall of 2009, after the Democratic Party took control of Congress and the Presidency. Cap-and-trade had passed the House and many believed it would surely pass Senate. In early November, hoping to have a bill passed in time for the Copenhagen IPCC conference in December, committee chairman Barbara Boxer refused to allow time for a complete economic analysis of the legislation. Senator Inhofe walked out of the meeting and announced to the press that the bill is dead. It never came to a vote before the Senate.

Shortly thereafter, the Climategate emails appeared, illustrating the nefarious actions of a number of scientists who actively supported the IPCC. The Copenhagen conference soon followed, which ended in a disaster for the IPCC. In the US, the EPA is trying to regulate carbon dioxide emissions, claiming they endanger public health and welfare. Inhofe understands the weaknesses of this approach and may prove to be more than a match for the politically powerful EPA.

In this personal view, Senator Inhofe treats his political opponents with kindness and appears humble in spite of his accomplishments. The book concludes with several appendices, one of which explains, in his terms, the motivation of the UN and its proponents and why their vision and actions are incompatible with Inhofe’s view of America. If anything, some skeptics may think Inhofe’s comments are too kind.

*The Greatest Hoax: How the Global Warming Conspiracy Threatens Your Future* by James Inhofe, U.S. Senator, 2012, WND Books, Washington, DC, ISBN 978-1-936488-49-0, 319 pp including endnotes and index. Available on Amazon

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## **ARTICLES:**

For the numbered articles below please see this week’s TWTW at: [www.sepp.org](http://www.sepp.org). The articles are at the end of the pdf.

### **1. North Dakota Tops Alaska in Oil Output**

By Jack Nicas, WSJ, May 15, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304192704577406493478214670.html?grcc=grdt&mod=WSJ\\_hps\\_sections\\_news](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304192704577406493478214670.html?grcc=grdt&mod=WSJ_hps_sections_news)

### **2. Groups Sue Again Over Oil Drilling off Alaska**

By Jim Carlton, WSJ, May 17, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303879604577410520594646982.html?mod=WSJ\\_Energy\\_leftHeadlines](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303879604577410520594646982.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines)

### **3. Wind-Generated Energy Is Working Well for Us in Iowa**

By Governor Terry Branstad, Letter, WSJ, May 15, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304070304577398493215885010.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_MIDDLEThirdBucket](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304070304577398493215885010.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_MIDDLEThirdBucket)

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#### **NEWS YOU CAN USE:**

#### ***Science: Is the Sun Rising?***

##### **Is The Stratosphere Responsible For Global Warming?**

By David Whitehouse, GWPF, May 15, 2012

<http://thegwpf.org/the-observatory/5727-is-the-stratosphereresponsible-for-global-warming.html>

[SEPP Comment: A possible new explanation on how high energy galactic cosmic rays, modulated by the sun, cause temperature variation on earth.]

#### ***Climategate Continued***

##### **Schmidt's "Conspiracy Theory"**

By Steve McIntyre, Climate Audit, May 16, 2012

<http://climateaudit.org/2012/05/16/schmidts-conspiracy-theory/#more-16091>

#### ***Suppressing Scientific Inquiry or Data***

##### **Climate Commission Fudges Hot Day Data**

By Jennifer Marohasy, Her Blog, May 14, 2012 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://jennifermarohasy.com/2012/05/climate-commission-fudges-hot-day-data/>

#### ***Challenging the Orthodoxy***

##### **Will Happer: CO2: friend or foe?**

By Lubos Motl, Reference Frame, May 17, 2012

<http://motls.blogspot.com/2012/05/will-happer-co2-friend-or-foe.html#more>

[SEPP Comment: Links to a 90 minute video of Happer discussing CO2 in 2010.]

##### **The Belief That CO2 Can Regulate Climate Is "Sheer Absurdity"**

By John Hinderaker, Power Line, May 13, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://www.powerlineblog.com/archives/2012/05/the-belief-that-co2-can-regulate-climate-is-sheer-absurdity.php>

##### **Future Southwest Drought in Doubt?**

By Patrick Michaels, World Climate Report, May 14, 2012

<http://www.worldclimatereport.com/index.php/2012/05/14/future-southwest-drought-in-doubt/#more-539>

#### ***Defending the Orthodoxy***

##### **Major Environmental Treaty Tackles Black Carbon as Climate Pollutant**

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), May 17, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Major\\_Environmental\\_Treaty\\_Tackles\\_Black\\_Carbon\\_as\\_Climate\\_Pollutant\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Major_Environmental_Treaty_Tackles_Black_Carbon_as_Climate_Pollutant_999.html)

The short-lived climate pollutants are responsible for 40 to 45% of all warming, with carbon dioxide responsible for the other 55-60%.

[SEPP Comment: Natural forces no longer matter!]

##### **Statistical Analysis Projects Future Temperatures In North America**

By Pam Frost Gorder, Columbus OH (SPX), May 16, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Statistical\\_Analysis\\_Projects\\_Future\\_Temperatures\\_In\\_North\\_America\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Statistical_Analysis_Projects_Future_Temperatures_In_North_America_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Shouldn't they try to validate and verify the models first?]

### **Questioning the Orthodoxy**

#### **Stocker in Action**

By David Holland, Bishop Hill, May 14, 2012

<http://www.bishop-hill.net/blog/2012/5/14/stocker-in-action.html>

[SEPP Comment: The British Government appears to be waking up to the fact that much of the critical IPCC work is done in secret.]

#### **Using Earth's Blessings To Better Mankind and Planet**

By David Legates, Townhall, May 14, 2012

[http://townhall.com/columnists/davidlegates/2012/05/14/using\\_earths\\_blessings\\_to\\_better\\_mankind\\_and\\_planet](http://townhall.com/columnists/davidlegates/2012/05/14/using_earths_blessings_to_better_mankind_and_planet)

#### **The Rebranding of Global Warming (Demoting an exaggerated issue)**

By Ken Maize, Master Resource, May 14, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/05/rebranding-global-warming/#more-19993>

#### **Only global poverty can save the planet, insists WWF – and the ESA!**

Windfarms for all, but without using steel or concrete

By Lewis Page, The A Register, May 16, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

[http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/05/16/wwf\\_living\\_planet\\_report/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/05/16/wwf_living_planet_report/)

#### **Progressive climate science**

By Anthony Sadar, Washington Examiner, May 14, 2012

[http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/2012/05/progressive-climate-science/610591?utm\\_source=Washington%20Examiner%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%2005/15/2012&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest](http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/2012/05/progressive-climate-science/610591?utm_source=Washington%20Examiner%20Opinion%20Digest%20-%2005/15/2012&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Washington%20Examiner:%20Opinion%20Digest)

### **Questioning European Green**

#### **UK councils may be obliged to lower emissions**

By Martin Livermore, Scientific Alliance, May 17, 2012

<http://www.scientific-alliance.org/scientific-alliance-newsletter/uk-councils-may-be-obliged-lower-emissions>

[SEPP Comment: The EU economy is faltering, carbon dioxide emissions are down by 2%. The EU climate commissioner declares the decline of CO2 emissions demonstrates the success of the Emissions Trading Scheme, even as the cost of tonne CO2 fell to 7 euros. Would a depression, with huge reductions in CO2 emissions, and a corresponding cost of CO2 at zero, be called a triumph in cap-and-trade regulation?]

#### **The cost of energy bills soar by 140pc in eight years**

The cost of household energy has risen seven times faster than household income since 2004, according to a study

By Staff Writers, Telegraph, UK, May 18, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/finance/personalfinance/consumertips/household-bills/9273867/The-cost-of-energy-bills-soar-by-140pc-in-eight-years.html>

#### **Green Energy Fiasco: German Electricity Prices To Double**

Translated from German, Deutsche Presse Agentur, May 16, 2012

<http://thegwpf.org/international-news/5735-green-energy-fiasco-german-electricity-prices-to-double.html>

### **Is Europe giving up on energy efficiency?**

By Sonja van Renssen, European Energy Review, May 14, 2012

[http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id\\_mailing=275&toegang=63923f49e5241343aa7acb6a06a751e7&id=3697](http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id_mailing=275&toegang=63923f49e5241343aa7acb6a06a751e7&id=3697)

### **Shale gas boom threatens European renewables investments – MGT**

By Elza Pell, Environmental Finance, May 17, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.environmental-finance.com/news/view/2503>

### ***Questioning Green Elsewhere***

#### **Taxpayers Subsidize Forbes 'Green' Billionaires' Schemes**

By Paul Chesser, NLPC, May 15, 2012

<http://nlpc.org/stories/2012/05/15/taxpayers-subsidize-forbes-green-billionaires-schemes>

### **Indian NGOs Accuse UK Of Colonialism, Racism, For Funding Forced Global Warming Sterilisations**

From Haunting the Library, GWPF, May 18, 2012

<http://thegwpf.org/uk-news/5748-indian-ngos-accuse-uk-of-colonialism-racism-for-funding-forced-global-warming-sterilisations.html>

### ***Expanding the Orthodoxy***

#### **Federal government spent nearly \$70 billion on 'climate change activities' since 2008**

By Caroline May, Daily Caller, May 17, 2012

<http://dailycaller.com/2012/05/17/federal-government-spent-nearly-70-billion-on-climate-change-activities-since-2008/#ixzz1vEGrINQ1>

### **UN talks take first steps on 2015 climate deal**

By Staff Writers, Paris (AFP), May 17, 2012

[http://www.terraviva.com/reports/UN\\_talks\\_take\\_first\\_steps\\_on\\_2015\\_climate\\_deal\\_999.html](http://www.terraviva.com/reports/UN_talks_take_first_steps_on_2015_climate_deal_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Desperate to collect money from developed countries. If developed countries bear most of the responsibility for taking the world out of the Little Ice Age, shouldn't they be the ones collecting rather than paying.]*

### **Defense Secretary Leon Panetta On Defensive Over Global Climate Warm-Mongering**

By Larry Bell, Forbes, May 13, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/05/13/defense-secretary-leon-panetta-on-defensive-over-global-climate-warm-mongering/>

### **Green Police: 1st Global 'Environmental Compliance and Enforcement Summit' Held in France.**

Haunting the Library, May 17, 2012

<http://hauntingthelibrary.wordpress.com/2012/05/17/green-police-1st-global-environmental-compliance-and-enforcement-summit-held-in-france/>

### ***Rio + 20 – World Control?***

#### **'The Real Enemy Is Humanity Itself'**

By Ben Pile, From Spiked, May 17, 2012

<http://thegwpf.org/best-of-blogs/5743-ben-pile-the-real-enemy-is-humanity-itself.html>

Forty years ago, two ideas about humanity's relationship with the natural world caught the imagination of the richest and most influential people. The first was that the demands of a growing population were taking more from the planet than could be replaced by natural processes. The second, related idea was that there exist natural 'limits to growth'. These two reinventions of Malthusianism became the basis of a new form of global politics, which has sought to contain human industrial and economic development ever since.

### **Looming U.N. Mega-Conference in Rio to Seek 'More Sustainable Future'**

By Patrick Goodenough, CNS News, May 15, 2012 [H/t Timothy Wise]

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/looming-un-mega-conference-rio-seek-more-sustainable-future>

### **WWF says over-consumption threatens planet**

By Staff Writers, Geneva (AFP) May 15, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/WWF\\_says\\_over-consumption\\_threatens\\_planet\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/WWF_says_over-consumption_threatens_planet_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: More alarmist claims. World population growth rate has fallen from 2.2% in the early 1960s to about 1.1% today. The article claims that global population is spiraling!]

### ***Problems within the Orthodoxy***

#### **Atmospheric observations of Arctic Ocean methane emissions up to 82° north**

By Kort, et al, Nature Geoscience, Apr 22, 2012

<http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/v5/n5/full/ngeo1452.html>

### **Ed Caryl Responds To Latest Warmist Gaseous End-Of-World Scare Scenario**

By P Gosselin, No Tricks Zone, May 12, 2012 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://notrickszone.com/2012/05/12/ed-caryl-responds-to-latest-warmist-gaseous-end-of-world-scare-scenario/>

[SEPP Comment: See like to article immediately above.]

### ***Seeking a Common Ground***

#### **Editorial Bias And The Crisis Of Science Communication**

By Benny Peiser, GWPF, May 12, 2012

<http://thegwpf.org/opinion-pros-a-cons/5701-benny-peiser-editorial-bias-and-the-crisis-of-science-communication.html>

[SEPP Comment: A paper presented to the European Parliament in 2007 – little has changed.]

### **Economists list cheapest ways to save the world**

By Staff Writers, Copenhagen (AFP), May 14, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Economists\\_list\\_cheapest\\_ways\\_to\\_save\\_the\\_world\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Economists_list_cheapest_ways_to_save_the_world_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: The third Copenhagen Consensus lead by Lomborg.]

### **Guest Post By Kiminori Itoh ” What Is The Psychological Origin Of The Narrow View Of The IPCC? – Socio-Psychological Aspect Of The Climate Change.”**

By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, May 18, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/05/18/guest-post-by-kiminori-itoh-what-is-the-psychological-origin-of-the-narrow-view-of-the-ipcc-socio-psychological-aspect-of-the-climate-change/>

[SEPP Comment: Do climate scientists of the west lack flexible thinking necessary to comprehend complex issues such as climate change?]

### ***Communicating Better to the Public – Exaggerate, or be Vague?***

**More Nonsense from Scripps: Rising temperatures could eliminate two-thirds of California snowpack**

By Staff Writers, ICECAP, May 17, 2012

Article by Anne C. Mulkern, E&E Reporter, Published: Wednesday, May 16, 2012

[http://icecap.us/index.php/go/they-said-it/more\\_nonsense\\_from\\_scripps\\_rising\\_temperatures\\_could\\_eliminate\\_two\\_thirds\\_o/](http://icecap.us/index.php/go/they-said-it/more_nonsense_from_scripps_rising_temperatures_could_eliminate_two_thirds_o/)

### **What Is Global Warming?**

The Planet Is Heating Up—and Fast

National Geographic, No Date [H/t Bud Bromley]

<http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/gw-overview>

[SEPP Comment: More alarmist claims from a formally valuable magazine.]

### **Rapid Climate Changes Turn Minn.'s North Woods into a Moose Graveyard**

By Daniel Cusick, E&E reporter, Earth First, May 18, 2012

<http://earthfirstnews.wordpress.com/2012/05/18/rapid-climate-changes-turn-minn-s-north-woods-into-a-moose-graveyard/>

[SEPP Comment: Could the reported decline be the introduction of wolves in the area? During the same period, moose have proliferated in New England in such numbers that they have become a threat to motorists.]

### **Potomac River threatened by pollution, Congress, new report says**

By Darryl Fears, Washington Post, May 15, 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/potomac-river-threatened-by-pollution-congress-new-report-says/2012/05/14/gIQAxI89PU\\_story.html?hpid=z3](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/potomac-river-threatened-by-pollution-congress-new-report-says/2012/05/14/gIQAxI89PU_story.html?hpid=z3)

[SEPP Comment: In the 1960s and early 1970s there was a major breach in the sewer line serving much of the suburbs north and west of Washington. Raw sewage was being dumped into the river immediately upstream of Washington. Private citizens, not government regulators, demanded this be cleaned-up. Today, the river is healthy and supports sports fishing contests immediately downstream of Washington.]

### **Climate scientists discover new weak point of the Antarctic ice sheet**

By Staff Writers, Breme, Germany (SPX), May 15, 2012

[http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Climate\\_scientists\\_discover\\_new\\_weak\\_point\\_of\\_the\\_Antarctic\\_ice\\_sheet\\_999.html](http://www.terraviva.com/reports/Climate_scientists_discover_new_weak_point_of_the_Antarctic_ice_sheet_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Using unverified and unvalidated models to project 60 years into the future.]

### **Communicating Better to the Public – Make things up.**

#### **Willingness to pay and political support for a US national clean energy standard**

Aldy, J. et al. Nature Climate Change, May 13, 2012

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nclimate1527.html>

[SEPP Comment: The estimated cost of 80% electricity from renewables is ridiculously low and unsupported by experience.]

### **The perfect climate for hollow threats**

By Andrew Bold, Herald Sun, May 14, 2012 [H/t Des Moore]

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/opinion/climate-for-hollow-threats/story-e6frfifx-1226354335311>

[SEPP Comment: More on the false death threats.]

### **Models v. Observations**

#### **We can't predict the climate on a local, regional, or continental scale**

By Tony Cox and Jo Nova, Her blog, May 17, 2012

<http://joannenova.com.au/2012/05/we-cant-predict-the-climate-on-a-local-regional-or-continental-scale/#more-21325>

## **Question And Answer On The Value Of Dynamic Downscaling For Multi-Decadal Predictions**

By Roger Pielke Sr, Pielke Climate Science, May 16, 2012

<http://pielkeclimatesci.wordpress.com/2012/05/16/question-and-answer-on-the-value-of-dynamic-downscaling-for-multi-decadal-predictions/>

## ***Changing Weather***

### **Varied Views on Extreme Weather in a Warming Climate**

By Andrew Revkin, NYT, May 11, 2012 [H/t ICECAP]

<http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/05/11/another-view-on-extreme-weather-in-a-warming-climate/?comments#comments>

*[SEPP Comment: It is not established that there has been an increase in severe weather. It is incumbent on those who claim it to product the evidence. Clichés are not evidence.]*

### **Hurricane drought days at an all time high – Katrina Karma ?**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 16, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/05/16/hurricane-drought-days-at-an-all-time-high-katrina-karma/>

*[SEPP Comment: A new scare – global warming is causing fewer hurricanes?]*

## ***Changing Seas***

### **Trenberth’s missing heat still missing: new paper shows a near flat ocean temperature trend – 0.09°C over the past 55 years**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 16, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/05/16/trenberths-missing-heat-still-missing-new-paper-shows-a-flat-ocean-temperature-trend-0-09c-over-the-past-55-years/#more-63740>

## ***Changing Sea Ice***

### **New paper using RADARSAT data: Antarctic ice shelves slowed down – “...have not been changed in a significant way in the past 12 years”**

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, May 17, 2012

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2012/05/17/new-paper-using-radarsat-data-antarctic-ice-shelves-slowed-down-have-not-been-changed-in-a-significant-way-in-the-past-12-years/#more-63767>

## ***Cap-and-Trade and Carbon Taxes***

### **EU issues warning to carbon tax rebels China, India**

By Staff Writers, Brussels (AFP) May 15, 2012

[http://www.terraily.com/reports/EU\\_issues\\_warning\\_to\\_carbon\\_tax\\_rebels\\_China\\_India\\_999.html](http://www.terraily.com/reports/EU_issues_warning_to_carbon_tax_rebels_China_India_999.html)

*[SEPP Comment: Will the next step for the EU be a tax on the carbon content of imports?]*

## ***Subsidies and Mandates Forever***

### **Wind energy without the PTC**

By Lisa Linowes, Wind Action, May 11, 2012

<http://www.windaction.org/faqs/34944>

*[SEPP Comment: Continued demands for subsidies of wind power.]*

### **Wind Energy: The Next Green Black-Hole**

By Marita Noon, Townhall, May 15, 2012 [H/t Martin Mangino]

[http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2012/05/13/wind\\_energy\\_the\\_next\\_green\\_blackhole/page/full/](http://finance.townhall.com/columnists/maritanoon/2012/05/13/wind_energy_the_next_green_blackhole/page/full/)

## ***EPA and other Regulators on the March***

### **Get even more lead out: CDC**

By Staff Writers, ACSH, May 18, 2012

[http://www.acsh.org/factsfears/newsID.3632/news\\_detail.asp](http://www.acsh.org/factsfears/newsID.3632/news_detail.asp)

[SEPP Comment: Even the CDC appears to be adapting a linear no-threshold model.]

### ***Energy Issues – Non-US***

#### **The Future of Oil: Geology versus Technology**

By Staff Writers, IMF Working Paper, European Energy Review, May 13, 2012

<http://www.europeanenergyreview.eu/site/pagina.php?id=3692>

[SEPP Comment: The perils of predicting future oil prices]

#### **Oilsands apocalypse at odds with credible science**

Editorial, Calgary Herald, May 17, 2012

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/opinion/editorials/Editorial+Oilsands+apocalypse+odds+with+credible+science/6640149/story.html>

#### **Australia to become energy superpower?**

By Staff Writers, UPI, May 14, 2012

[http://www.upi.com/Business\\_News/Energy-Resources/2012/05/14/Australia-to-become-energy-superpower/UPI-26871337012856/](http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2012/05/14/Australia-to-become-energy-superpower/UPI-26871337012856/)

### ***Energy Issues -- US***

#### **What the Keystone pipeline won't do**

Editorial, Washington Post, May 13, 2012

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/what-the-keystone-pipeline-wont-do/2012/05/13/gIQAVp2FNU\\_story.html?hpid=z3](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/what-the-keystone-pipeline-wont-do/2012/05/13/gIQAVp2FNU_story.html?hpid=z3)

[SEPP Comment: The Washington Post discovers there is a world market for oil and sudden disruptions in the market affect price. This is hardly justification for not building the pipeline.]

#### **James Hansen's War Against Canada**

By Kenneth P. Green, Master Resource, May 16, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/05/james-hansen-war-canada/#more-20027>

### ***Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?***

#### **Star States on the Road to U.S. Hydrocarbon Plenty**

By Julia Bell, Master Resource, May 15, 2012

<http://www.masterresource.org/2012/05/star-states-hydrocarbon-plenty/#more-20005>

#### **Two new LNG projects planned in North America**

By Edward McAllister and Jeffrey Jones, Reuters, May 16, 2012

[http://business.financialpost.com/2012/05/16/ten-lng-projects-planned-in-north-america/?\\_lsa=a643f026](http://business.financialpost.com/2012/05/16/ten-lng-projects-planned-in-north-america/?_lsa=a643f026)

[SEPP Comment: This brings to total planned projects to export LNG to 12. Remains to be seen how many will be built.]

#### **Canadian oil production may hit six million bpd by 2020: CIBC**

By Yadullah Hussain, Financial Post, May 17, 2012

[http://business.financialpost.com/2012/05/17/canadian-oil-production-may-hit-6m-by-2020-cibc/?\\_lsa=a643f026](http://business.financialpost.com/2012/05/17/canadian-oil-production-may-hit-6m-by-2020-cibc/?_lsa=a643f026)

#### **Methane hydrate technology fuels a new energy regime**

By Neil Reynolds, Globe and Mail, May 15, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/commentary/neil-reynolds/methane-hydrate-technology-fuels-a-new-energy-regime/article2433611/>

### ***Washington's Control of Oil and Gas***

#### **No Virginia, There Is No Sanity Clause In Obama Drilling Permit Policy**

By Larry Bell, Forbes, May 15, 2012

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2012/05/15/no-virginia-there-is-no-sanity-clause-in-obama-drilling-permit-policy/>

#### **GAO To Obama: More Oil Than Rest Of The World**

Editorial, IBD, May 14, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/article/611380/201205141900/green-river-equal-to-worlds-oil-reserves-.htm?p=full>

### ***Oil Spills, Gas Leaks & Consequences***

#### **A Push From the Mississippi Kept Deepwater Horizon Oil Slick Off Shore, Penn Research Shows**

By Staff Writers, Philadelphia, PA (SPX), May 16, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/A\\_Push\\_From\\_the\\_Mississippi\\_Kept\\_Deepwater\\_Horizon\\_Oil\\_Slick\\_Off\\_Shore\\_Penn\\_Research\\_Shows\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/A_Push_From_the_Mississippi_Kept_Deepwater_Horizon_Oil_Slick_Off_Shore_Penn_Research_Shows_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: Why is it a surprise that the outflow of the mighty Mississippi alters the currents in the Gulf?]

### ***Nuclear Energy and Fears***

#### **Water waste set to become uranium resource in USA**

By Staff Writers, WNN, May 9, 2012

[http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/ENF-Water\\_waste\\_set\\_to\\_become\\_uranium\\_resource\\_in\\_USA-0905125a.html](http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/ENF-Water_waste_set_to_become_uranium_resource_in_USA-0905125a.html)

### ***Alternative, Green ("Clean") Solar and Wind***

#### **Wind Energy: The Wheels are Coming Off the Gravy Train**

By Marita Noon, Energy Tribune, May 14, 2012

<http://www.energytribune.com/articles.cfm/10625/Wind-Energy-The-Wheels-are-Coming-Off-the-Gravy-Train>

#### **China rejects US antidumping ruling on solar panels**

By Vicki Needham, The Hill, May 18, 2012

<http://thehill.com/blogs/on-the-money/1005-trade/228295-chinese-reject-us-antidumping-ruling-on-solar-panels>

#### **China government may begin anti-dumping and anti-subsidy probe against US firms**

Nuying Huang, Shanghai; Jackie Chang, DigiTimes, May 17, 2012 [H/t GWPF]

<http://www.digitimes.com/news/a20120516PD212.html>

#### **European Union PV market largest worldwide**

By Staff Writers, Paris, France (SPX) May 17, 2012

[http://www.solardaily.com/reports/European\\_Union\\_PV\\_market\\_largest\\_worldwide\\_999.html](http://www.solardaily.com/reports/European_Union_PV_market_largest_worldwide_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: A dubious honor.]

### ***Alternative, Green ("Clean") Energy -- Other***

#### **Top Five Figures Influencing Renewable Energy in US**

By Staff Writers, Washington DC (SPX), May 14, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Top\\_Five\\_Figures\\_Influencing\\_Renewable\\_Energy\\_in\\_US\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Top_Five_Figures_Influencing_Renewable_Energy_in_US_999.html)

### **Catching the Wave of Alternative Energy**

By Staff Writers, Portland ME (SPX), May 16, 2012

[http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Catching\\_the\\_Wave\\_of\\_Alternative\\_Energy\\_999.html](http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Catching_the_Wave_of_Alternative_Energy_999.html)

### **California Dreaming**

#### **California High-Speed Rail: Highest Burn Rate Ever**

By Tim Cavanaugh, Reason, May 14, 2012

<http://reason.com/blog/2012/05/14/california-high-speed-rail-highest-burn>

### **Hurry Up And Spend? No, Slow Down And Think**

Editorial, IBD, May 15, 2012

<http://news.investors.com/article/611573/201205151852/obama-has-trouble-finding-takers-for-high-speed-rail-money.htm>

### **Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC**

**For a full list of articles see [www.NIPCCreport.org](http://www.NIPCCreport.org)**

#### **Evolutionary and Adaptive Responses of Coral-Algal Symbioses to Potential Future Warming**

Reference: Pettay, D.T., Wham, D.C., Pinzon, J.H. and LaJeunesse, T.C. 2011. Genotypic diversity and spatial-temporal distribution of Symbiodinium clones in an abundant reef coral. *Molecular Ecology* 20: 5197-5212.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/may/15may2012a2.html>

[SEPP Comment: *They adapt.*]

#### **ENSO: A Permanent Feature of a Future Warmer World?**

Reference: Davies, A., Kemp, A.E.S., Weedon, G.P. and Barron, J.A. 2012. El Niño-Southern Oscillation variability from the Late Cretaceous Maracaibo Shale of California. *Geology* 40: 15-18.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/may/15may2012a3.html>

[SEPP Comment: *No support for the proposition that warmer world would lead to a permanent El Niño.*]

#### **Hudson Bay Ringed Seal Populations Declined Significantly Due to Heavy Ice in the 1990s**

Reference: Chambellant, M., Stirling, I., Gough, W.A. and Ferguson, S.H. 2012. Temporal variations in Hudson Bay ringed seal (*Phoca hispida*) life-history parameters in relation to environment. *Journal of Mammalogy* 93: 267-281.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/may/15may2012a4.html>

[SEPP Comment: *Cold periods can have negative impacts on the populations of ringed seals – and the polar bears that feed on them.*]

#### **Dust Deposits at the Bottom of the Aral Sea**

Reference: Huang, X., Oberhansli, H., von Suchodoletz, H. and Sorrel, P. 2011. Dust deposition in the Aral Sea: implications for changes in atmospheric circulation in central Asia during the past 2000 years. *Quaternary Science Reviews* 30: 3661-3674.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/may/16may2012a1.html>

[SEPP Comment: *The deposits vary with warming and cooling periods over the past 2000 years.*]

#### **Tree Growth in the Swedish Sub-Arctic: Setting New Records**

Reference: Hedenas, H., Olsson, H., Jonasson, C., Bergstedt, J., Dahlberg, U. and Callaghan, T.V. 2011. Changes in tree growth, biomass and vegetation over a 13-year period in the Swedish Sub-Arctic. *Ambio* 40: 672-682.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2012/may/16may2012a3.html>

### ***Oh Mann!***

#### **Jeff Masters on Mann and PCA**

By Andrew Montford, Bishop Hill, May 18, 2012

<http://bishophill.squarespace.com/blog/2012/5/18/jeff-masters-on-mann-and-pca.html>

### ***Other Scientific News***

#### **Caltech researchers gain greater insight into earthquake cycles**

By Katie Neith, Pasadena CA (SPX), May 16, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Caltech\\_researchers\\_gain\\_greater\\_insight\\_into\\_earthquake\\_cycles\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Caltech_researchers_gain_greater_insight_into_earthquake_cycles_999.html)

#### **The Heliosphere Bow Shock Does Not Exist**

By Staff Writers, Moffett Field CA (SPX), May 14, 2012

[http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/The\\_Heliosphere\\_Bow\\_Shock\\_Does\\_Not\\_Exist\\_999.html](http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/The_Heliosphere_Bow_Shock_Does_Not_Exist_999.html)

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### **BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:**

#### **Chinese Farmer Fights Smog With Fan Power**

By Holly Williams, Sky News, May 17, 2012 [H/t Bishop Hill]

<http://news.sky.com/home/world-news/article/16228695>

[SEPP Comment: *The video of this near perpetual motion machine is amusing.*]

#### **Wasted milk is a real drain on our resources**

By Staff Writers, Edinburgh UK (SPX), May 16, 2012

[http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Wasted\\_milk\\_is\\_a\\_real\\_drain\\_on\\_our\\_resources\\_999.html](http://www.seeddaily.com/reports/Wasted_milk_is_a_real_drain_on_our_resources_999.html)

[SEPP Comment: *Other reasons to drink all your milk.*]

#### **Nearly one-tenth of hemisphere's mammals unlikely to outrun climate change**

By Staff Writers, Seattle WA (SPX), May 16, 2012

[http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Nearly\\_one\\_tenth\\_of\\_hemisphere\\_mammals\\_unlikely\\_to\\_outrun\\_climate\\_change\\_999.html](http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Nearly_one_tenth_of_hemisphere_mammals_unlikely_to_outrun_climate_change_999.html)

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### **ARTICLES:**

#### **1. North Dakota Tops Alaska in Oil Output**

By Jack Nicas, WSJ, May 15, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304192704577406493478214670.html?grcc=grdt&mod=WSJ\\_hps\\_sections\\_news](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304192704577406493478214670.html?grcc=grdt&mod=WSJ_hps_sections_news)

North Dakota has passed Alaska to become the No. 2 oil-producing state in the country, reflecting how the embrace of new drilling technology is redrawing the U.S. energy map.

North Dakota's daily production of oil rose 3.1% to 575,490 barrels in March, according to preliminary state data, 1.4% more than Alaska's daily production of 567,480 barrels for the month.

Texas, which pumped 1.7 million barrels a day in February, holds a firm grip on first place.

The leap past Alaska came "substantially earlier than we thought. We had graphed this out [to happen] early next year," said Ron Ness, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, which represents more than 350 companies in the state's oil fields. "I don't foresee us giving Texas a run right now, but certainly we've moved up in the batting lineup."

In four years, oil output has quadrupled in North Dakota. In March 2008, the state was the No. 8 oil-producing state at 144,000 barrels a day.

But since then, new technology called hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has allowed companies to access the roughly 4.3 billion barrels of crude believed to lie in the Bakken shale beneath parts of North Dakota, Montana and Canada.

Fracking has opened up vast new areas for oil—and natural gas—production. Much like the oil surge in North Dakota, energy companies have drilled thousands of wells in Pennsylvania, tripling the commonwealth's gas production in the past few years. Exploration is targeting new oil fields in Ohio and is breathing new life into aging fields, such as the Permian Basin in Texas.

North Dakota is likely to hold onto the No. 2 spot, as Alaska's output has steadily declined over the past decade. Six years ago, Alaska produced about eight times more oil than North Dakota.

"Unless things change up here—they find another patch of oil—I think they will pass us for good," said Stephen McCains, a statistician for the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

In December, North Dakota moved past California into third place. California, which recently had jockeyed for the No. 2 position with Alaska, now finds itself at No. 4.

With about 40% as much daily oil production as North Dakota, Oklahoma and New Mexico are Nos. 5 and 6 in the U.S., respectively.

North Dakota's ascent caught local lawmakers off guard. In March 2011, their two-year state budget included a forecast that daily production would hit 425,000 barrels by June 2013. It reached that level by July 2011.

The booming oil fields and high-paying jobs there have drawn thousands of workers to the state.

Of the 15 counties in the U.S. with the lowest unemployment rates, 11 are in North Dakota—some with rates below 1%. But the sudden rush of out-of-towners has clogged highways, hotel rooms and lines at local restaurants, residents say.

In Williston, N.D.—the fastest-growing small city in the U.S., according to census data—construction is also booming to keep up with demand. In 2011, the city issued \$358 million worth of building permits, up from \$45 million in 2009.

Housing is still "extremely short," said city auditor John Kautzman. "We have lots of vertical construction, but we're not in a position where we're caught up yet." On Wednesday, government and business leaders will convene in Williston for the "Bakken Housing Summit" with a goal of building 5,000 homes in the area by 2014.

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## **2. Groups Sue Again Over Oil Drilling off Alaska**

By Jim Carlton, WSJ, May 17, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303879604577410520594646982.html?mod=WSJ\\_Energy\\_leftHeadlines](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303879604577410520594646982.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_leftHeadlines)

A coalition of environmental and tribal groups filed a challenge Wednesday to a federal air-emissions permit for a Royal Dutch Shell drilling ship, the latest legal maneuver aimed at stopping the oil giant's exploration plan off Alaska's Arctic coast.

The Obama administration gave Shell the go-ahead last year to move forward with plans to drill for oil in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas. The coalition's court challenge targets a ship that Shell plans to deploy for drilling in the Beaufort Sea starting as early as mid-July when the sea-ice clears.

Shell's opponents said the challenge is part of a strategy to appeal as much of Shell's plan as they can, in hopes a court will block it. "We don't think there should be drilling in the Arctic, period," said Rebecca Noblin, Alaska director of the Center for Biological Diversity, one of eight groups that filed the challenge in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

"History tells us opposition groups will use the courts in an attempt to stall our program at every turn," said Curtis Smith, a spokesman for Shell's Shell Alaska division. "Our recent filings make clear we have no intention of sitting back and waiting for that to happen."

Anti-drilling groups have filed at least four other challenges against the project since the Interior Department in October said it would uphold nearly 500 oil-drilling leases in the Chukchi Sea that legal challenges had blocked since 2008.

Shell has filed two suits against the coalition since February in federal court in Anchorage, Alaska, as a pre-emptive move to seek court judgments on some other permits the company said it believes the opponents will challenge. Those suits, as well as the challenges, are all pending.

The latest challenge alleges Shell's vessel and support fleet will pollute the Arctic air. Shell officials said the Environmental Protection Agency, which issued the emissions permits under the Clean Air Act, has found the ships would pose no significant impact to the air.

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### **3. Wind-Generated Energy Is Working Well for Us in Iowa**

By Governor Terry Branstad, Letter, WSJ, May 15, 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304070304577398493215885010.html?mod=WSJ\\_Opinion\\_MIDDLEThirdBucket](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304070304577398493215885010.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_MIDDLEThirdBucket)

Your recent editorials on the federal wind-energy Production Tax Credit (PTC) and renewable portfolio standard (RPS) ("Gouged by the Wind," May 5 and "Windy Republicans," May 7) are off the mark. The wind-power industry is an American success story that is helping us build our manufacturing base, create jobs, lower energy costs and strengthen our energy security.

As a country, we should support energy diversity and development of all domestic resources, creating an "all of the above" energy strategy. To that end, our state and national energy plans have long relied on varying policies and incentives, such as the PTC and RPS, to deploy technologies that ensure a diverse domestic energy fleet.

Iowa has long played a leadership role in developing wind power—a clean, domestic, affordable resource. During my first term as governor, I signed the first RPS in the country, and it continues to drive billions in private investment in Iowa, as well as helping electric consumers. Some years later, Sen. Chuck Grassley wrote the PTC. Today, Iowa is seeing the economic benefits flowing from those policies, which

have attracted billions of dollars in private investment first hand. Our state is receiving 20% of its electricity from wind farms at stable and dependable rates, and there are over 215 wind-related businesses operating in 55 counties across Iowa, providing jobs for more than 5,000 workers. This success has been replicated across the nation, with more than 470 factories in 43 states producing parts for the industry.

The Production Tax Credit was originally developed and enacted into law with strong bipartisan support that continues today. Congress should act urgently to extend the PTC and provide the certainty wind companies need to continue investing in Iowa's and the nation's future.

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