

The Week That Was: 2011-02-19 (February 19, 2011)

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The Science and Environmental Policy Project

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Quote of the Week:

“The encouragement of perfect freedom of economic discussion. The Association as such will take no partisan attitude, nor will it commit its members to any position on practical economic questions.” From the American Economic Association Constitution – as quoted by Ross McKittrick (see below)

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Number of the Week: 682%

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THIS WEEK:

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

As discussed in last week’s TWTW, western governments have spent tens of billions of dollars pursuing an answer to the wrong scientific question: what is the risk of human-induced global warming / climate change? As a result, the governments have funded a science that is focused on attributing climate change to humans rather than understanding all the causes of climate change. Under this approach critical assertions are not tested against empirical, physical evidence. The assertions that carbon dioxide is the principal driver of climate change and that humans are causing unprecedented and dangerous global warming do not stand up to the physical evidence of past climate change. The failure to conduct rigorous hypothesis testing results in a discipline that is something other than a rigorous physical science.

Last week, TWTW discussed the testimony to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Energy and Power by EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and American Public Health Association (APHA) representative Lynn Goldman. Both testimonies contained highly questionable assertions.

H. Leighton Steward, Chairman of PlantsneedCO2.org and CO2isgreen.org, submitted a statement that challenges Ms. Jackson and Ms. Goldman to substantiate their questionable claims and the labeling of CO2 as a pollutant. In his statement Mr. Steward brings up a vital issue that is generally ignored by government-funded science: the benefits of increased carbon dioxide. Life on the planet is carbon-based. Green plants need carbon dioxide to manufacture food upon which they and most other life forms depend.

As Mr. Steward succinctly expresses, extensive experiments in the laboratory and the field demonstrate that increased carbon dioxide is beneficial. It promotes more robust growth of plant life and a more robust environment. Importantly for humans, virtually every food crop grows better in an atmosphere of enhanced carbon dioxide. The use of carbon-based fuels has benefited humanity and the environment.

Putting the question in the more political form used by the UN IPCC rather than in a scientific form, one may ask what are the risks to humanity, and the environment, of reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide?

Number of the Week: 682%. From 1960 to 2010 wheat production in India went from 10,320 (1000 Metric Tons) to 80,710 (1000 MT) – an increase of 682 percent. According to the measurements at Mauna Loa Observatory, atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration in 1960 was below 320 ppm and in 2010 it is about 390 ppm – an increase of 22%. No doubt the “green revolution” of better seeds, farming practices and fertilizer plus removal of government price controls greatly contributed to increased wheat production in India, but so did CO2.

Please see Article # 1 and the articles under Carbon Dioxide Benefits Ignored in EPA & APHA Testimony.

The Quote of the Week comes from a paper by Ross McKittrick, who along with Steve McIntyre first exposed the infamous “hockeystick.” McKittrick prepared the paper for a conference on establishing a common understanding on global warming issues.

Last week, and several times in the past, TWTW carried letters from distinguished scientists resigning from science societies that have issued opinions on global warming. Perhaps the members of science societies, and science in general, would be better served if all science societies followed the lead of the American Economic Association. Please see the entire paper referenced under “Seeking a Common Ground.”

A group of Oxford University researchers claimed they established that global warming / carbon dioxide increases made Britain’s great floods in 2000 twice as likely as if there had been no global warming / carbon dioxide increases. To arrive at this conclusion, researchers estimated the conditions prior to carbon dioxide enhancement compared to estimated conditions in 2000. They used a computer climate model developed at the Met Office Hadley Centre and had volunteers run it thousands of times on personal computers. The announcement attracted considerable attention in the press. Of course, multiple model runs are necessary to establish an error range of the estimates from a non-linear, chaotic model; but multiple runs do not establish the accuracy of the assumptions in the model.

Piers Corbyn of Weather Action debunks the announcement in a post jokingly claiming the 2000 flooding was caused by the Millennium bug. His post contains the references to the article in *Nature* and Met Office news releases.

In a timely fashion, NIPCC reports reviewed several articles on the difficulty of modeling clouds and precipitation. Please see articles referenced under “Extreme Weather” and “Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC.”

The economy of California continues to be hobbled by state government policies, especially unjustified environmental policies. Please see Article # 2 by Fred Singer and the article under “California Dreaming.”

Palaeontologist Bob Carter points out that what are called natural disasters have occurred throughout history. There is little mankind can do to stop natural events, such as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, which significantly impacts on the weather of Australia and New Zealand. Rather than blame carbon dioxide emissions for natural disasters, government officials should focus on planning for natural disasters. He holds up New Zealand’s GeoNet hazard as an outstanding example of a national hazard management system. Please see Article #3.

The US administration continues to suppress drilling for oil in the United States both on land and offshore, including the Gulf of Mexico. The actions contradict claims of promoting economic growth, as well as, seeking energy independence. Oil is primarily a transportation fuel and automobiles perform poorly if propelled by wind turbines. The pressure on the administration, including the Department of Interior, is increasing but thus far ignored. Please see Article # 4 and the articles under “BP Oil Spill.”

The issue of EPA regulating the emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is becoming hotter. Many members of Congress desire to rein in EPA’s expansion of power. There are a number of proposals to do so. Marlo Lewis has an insightful article on the pluses and minuses of various proposals. Please see Article # 5 and articles under “Let the Games Begin.”

On the lighter side: Last week, TWTW referenced an article in which a climate expert declared that, with global warming, wine producers in Bordeaux can expect more vintages such as the hot, dry year of 2003. Experts in French wines reported to TWTW that 2003 was an excellent year, high in quality and low in quantity. (Often quality and quantity are inversely related.) The experts stated that the previous hottest year in Bordeaux was 1947 which, as the wines aged, is considered an outstanding year. Also, the vineyards producing some of the finest wines of Bordeaux are in urban centers – which typically have higher temperatures than the surrounding countryside.

Some traditional producers are stating that the sugars in the grapes are increasing, resulting in a higher alcohol content in the wine. SEPP suspects that the increase in sugar content is a result of carbon dioxide enrichment, not global warming. Please see the article referenced under “Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC.”

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ARTICLES:

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

1. Statement of H. Leighton Steward

To the US House Subcommittee on Energy and Power
In response to statements made February 9, 2011 by EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson and American Public Health Association representative Lynn Goldman, M.D.
By H. Leighton Steward, Chairman, PlantsneedCO2.org and CO2isgreen.org, Feb 16 2011
<http://statement.co2isgreen.org/>
[SEPP Comment: A powerful challenge for credible evidence supporting EPA and APHA statements to Congress!]

2. The Sad State of the State of California

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 18, 2011
http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/02/the_sad_state_of_the_state_of.html

3. Disasters happen

And the appropriate response is to prepare for and adapt to them
By Bob Carter, Quadrant Online, Feb 13, 2011
<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2011/02/disasters-happen>

4. A Shale Of A Difference

Editorial, IBD, Feb 17, 2011
<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/563537/201102171832/A-Shale-Of-A-Difference.htm?>

5. Hitting EPA’s Pause Button – What Are the Benefits, Risks?

By Marlo Lewis, Cooler Heads Coalition, Feb 17, 2011
<http://www.globalwarming.org/2011/02/17/hitting-epas-pause-button-what-are-the-benefits-risks/>

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NEWS YOU CAN USE:

Climategate Continued

Announcing a formal request for the Auditor General to audit the Australian BOM (Bureau of Meteorology)

By JoNova, Feb 16, 2011 [H/t WUWT]

<http://joannenova.com.au/2011/02/announcing-a-formal-request-for-the-auditor-general-to-audit-the-australian-bom/>

Are Skeptic Scientists Corrupt

By Russell Cook, SPPI, Feb 17, 2011

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/originals/are_skeptic_scientists_corrupt.pdf

Challenging the Orthodoxy

Uncertainties Galore!

World Climate Report, Feb 16, 2011

http://www.climatedepot.com/r/9831/The-AntiScience-of-Science-Magazine-Another-Example-of-Science-Establishment-Twisting-Facts-To-Match-AGW-Hypothesis?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ClimateDepot+%28Climate+Depot%29

“Climate committee” is a government advertising scheme by any other name

By JoNova, Feb 11, 2011

<http://joannenova.com.au/2011/02/do-you-want-a-carbon-tax-poll-on-today-at-the-age/#more-13233>

Green Smoke Screen

Supporters of “green energy” like to say it will create more jobs. They’re wrong

By Bjorn Lomborg, Slate, Feb 13, 2011 [H/t Warren Wetmore]

<http://www.slate.com/id/2284634/>

Defenders of the Orthodoxy

Tim Flannery appointed Australia’s climate commissioner

By Ben Packham, The Australian, Feb 10, 2011 [H/t John Cribbes]

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/national-affairs/climate/tim-flannery-appointed-australias-climate-commissioner/story-e6frg6xf-1226003546894>

Republicans Gut EPA Climate Rules, Slash Deeply Into Climate Research, Aid and Technology Programs

By Lauren Morello, Dina Fin Maron, Lisa Friedman and Squib Rahim, NYT, Feb, 14, 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2011/02/14/14climatewire-republicans-gut-epa-climate-rules-slash-deep-87716.html?ref=energy-environment>

Hopes of 30% cut in greenhouse emissions dashed

EU energy chief fears target would lead to a too-fast process of de-industrialization as compared to current 20%

By Fiona Harvey, Guardian, UK, Feb 10, 2011

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/feb/10/hopes-greenhouse-emissions-cuts-dashed>

[SEPP Comment: Impressive propaganda photo of chimneys belching black stuff, what is it?]

Lord Stern: West must end hesitation over climate change

By Andrew Willis, Euobserver, Feb 9, 2011 [H/t Catherine French]

<http://euobserver.com/884/31778/?rk=1>

[SEPP Comments: Turning a blind eye on China’s increasing carbon dioxide emissions. The West must get over its current economic difficulties and “do what is right.” Too reminiscent of the aristocratic generals demanding the English troops to attack entrenched German artillery and machine guns during WWI.]

The politics of attack

They don't have the facts, so House Republicans try to skewer the EPA
Editorial, Las Vegas Sun, Feb 12, 2011

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2011/feb/12/politics-attack/>

Seeking a Common Ground

Conflict Resolution in Climate Science: Some Preliminary Thoughts from an Outsider

By Ross McKittrick, Jan 26, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

http://rossmckittrick.weebly.com/uploads/4/8/0/8/4808045/mckittrick_preliminary_notes.pdf

[*"The Key to Intellectual Freedom in Economics: No Society Statements"*]

Sanity slowly returning to global warming policy

Editorial, Washington Examiner, Feb 12, 2011

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/editorials/2011/02/sanity-slowly-returning-global-warming-policy>

The Seas are Changing

Rising Seas Will Affect Major US Coastal Cities by 2100, New Research Finds

By Staff Writers, Science Daily, Feb 14, 2011 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2011/02/110215081742.htm>

[*SEPP Comment: Increased precision in estimating the results of inaccurate assumptions does not contribute to increased accuracy of the assumptions. A Wall Street promoter putting six digits after the decimal place on an estimated return on investment does not make a false estimate more accurate, only more precisely false.*]

Carbon Dioxide Benefits Ignored in EPA & APHA Testimony

A critical look at APHA testimony to congress in support of the EPA regulatory authority in light of "the health threat" imposed by "global warming"

By Joe D'Aleo, ICECAP, Feb 15, 2011

http://icecap.us/images/uploads/APHA_testimony_to_congress_review.pdf

Where's that Indian crop failure the warmists predicted?

By Andrew Bolt, Herald Sun, AU, Feb 17, 2011 [H/t Rupert Wynham]

http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/wheres_that_indian_crop_failure_the_warmists_predicted

Agriculture Production by Country – India

<http://www.indexmundi.com/agriculture/?country=in&commodity=wheat&graph=production>

Cited Source: US Department of Agriculture

CO2 is a benefactor not a pollutant. Producers should be reward not demonized and taxed

By Joseph D'Aleo, ICECAP, Feb 14, 2011

<http://www.icecap.us/> (Cold Storage)

Extreme Weather

The Hottest Year on Record?

By Steve Goddard, SPPI, Feb 15, 2011 [H/t ICECAP]

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/images/stories/papers/reprint/the_hottest_year_ever.pdf

[SEPP Comment: James Hansen declared 2010 the hottest year ever. Yet, the data of NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) diverge from that of other reporting surface-air temperatures. For example, in 2010 Hadley-CRU reported temperatures below those of 1998. Of course, NASA-GISS use models to project temperatures where they have no thermometers.]

Floods caused by climate change

Devastating floods which wreaked havoc across Britain in 2000 were made more likely by global warming, according to the first study to link flooding in this country to climate change.

By Louise Gray, Telegraph, UK, Feb 16, 2011 [H/t Malcolm Ross]

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/8328705/Floods-caused-by-climate-change.html>

[SEPP Comment: See article below and review of articles on models and precipitation by NIPCC Reports.]

UK Floods in 2000 caused by Millennium bug

By Piers Corbyn, Weather Action, Feb 18, 2011

<http://www.weatheraction.com/displayarticle.asp?a=310&c=5>

[SEPP Comment: See article above.]

Russian Winter: severe cold to invade Moscow and Eastern Europe

By Ryan Maue, WUWT, Feb 15, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/02/15/russian-winter-severe-cold-to-invade-moscow-and-eastern-europe/#more-34075>

[SEPP Comment: The losses suffered by Napoleon's Army in the march FROM Moscow were staggering.]

BP Oil Spill and Administration Control of Drilling

Federal judge gives Interior 30 days to decide on deepwater drilling permits

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Feb 17, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/144917-federal-judge-gives-interior-30-days-to-decide-on-deepwater-permits>

Exxon-led group says oil well containment system is ready

By Ben Geman, The Hill, Feb 17, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/144835-exxon-led-group-calls-blowout-containment-plan-ready>

Let the Games Begin

Bills now in Congress to stop EPA's All-Pain, No-Gain climate rules

By Dana Joel Gattuso, Washington Examiner, Feb 17, 2011

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/2011/02/bills-now-congress-stop-epas-all-pain-no-gain-climate-rules>

EPA Gearing up for regulatory review

By Andrew Restuccia, The Hill, Feb 18, 2011

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/145091-epa-gearing-up-for-review-of-its-regulations>

EPA and other Regulators on the March

The Risk to Bristol Bay

Editorial, NYT, Feb 13, 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/14/opinion/14mon3.html?nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha211>

Subsidies and Mandates Forever

Will Obama's SunShot Initiative See the Light of Day?

By Eli Kintisch, Science Insider, Feb 15, 2011 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

<http://news.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/2011/02/will-obamas-sunshot-initiative.html?ref=hp>

[SEPP Comment: If DOE believes its research can make electricity from photovoltaic cost- competitive with electricity from traditional sources, we wish it great success. Thus, there is no justification for renewable energy standards, other mandates, or subsidies for green, renewable energy, including wind power. Once DOE has performed, to include solving the problem of storage, then, everyone will demand to convert to low cost solar.]

Energy Issues

Four Regulatory Fronts Against Coal Power (after the defeat of cap-and-trade)

By Robert Peltier, Master Resource, Feb 15, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/02/four-frontobstacles-coal-power/#more-14121>

Europe launches trillion-euro energy revamp

By Staff Writers, AFP, Feb 4, 2011 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

http://www.energy-daily.com/reports/Europe_launches_trillion-euro_energy_revamp_999.html

Greens sour on natural gas

By Bob King, Politico, Feb 16, 2011 [H/t Randy Randol]

<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0211/49579.html>

States Sue NRC over Temporary Nuclear Waste Rules

By Staff Writers, Power News, Feb 16, 2011

http://www.powermag.com/POWERnews/3445.html?hq_e=el&hq_m=2143555&hq_l=4&hq_v=5e660500d0

[SEPP Comment: Now with Yucca Mountain shut down, Connecticut, New York, and Vermont desire to close down nuclear power.]

Nuclear Reactors under Construction Worldwide

European Nuclear Society, Jan 19, 2011

<http://www.euronuclear.org/info/encyclopedia/n/nuclear-power-plant-world-wide.htm>

Oil and Natural Gas – the Future or the Past?

Unconventional Gas Riles and Refigures the World Energy Market: North America (Part I)

By Donald Hertzmark, Master Resource, Feb 16, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/02/unconventional-gas-north-america/>

[SEPP Comment: The world energy market is changing – whether governments or vested interests like it or not.]

Unconventional Gas Riles and Refigures the World Energy Market: The Pacific and Asia (Part II)

By Donald Hertzmark, Master Resource, Feb 17, 2011

<http://www.masterresource.org/2011/02/unconventional-gas-riles-and-refigures-the-world-energy-market-the-pacific-and-asia-part-ii/#more-14163>

Exxon Struggles to Find New Oil

By Russell Gold and Angel Gonzalez, WSJ, Feb 16, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704409004576146362117313094.html?mod=ITP_pageone_0

[SEPP Comment: May be behind a pay wall. The main issue is not the existence of oil but the denial by governments for exploring and developing oil fields.]

Alternative, Green Energy

Northern New Brunswick wind turbines frozen solid

By Greg Weston, Telegraph-Journal, Canada, Feb 15, 2011 [H/t WUWT]

<http://www.globalmontreal.com/technology/Northern+Brunswick+wind+turbines+frozen+solid/4286952/story.html>

Greenpeace Still Tilting at Windmills in Spain

By Gabriel Calzada, Institute for Energy Research, Feb 15, 2011 [H/t Randy Randol]

<http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/2011/02/15/greenpeace-still-tilting-at-windmills-in-spain/>

California Dreaming

Cap-and-Trade Fantasies In Disneyland

By Larry Bell, Forbes, Feb 15, 2011

<http://blogs.forbes.com/larrybell/2011/02/15/cap-and-trade-fantasies-in-disneyland/>

Review of Recent Scientific Articles by NIPCC

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

Climate Model Problems: Clouds and Precipitation

Reference: Zhou, Y.P., Tao, W.-K., Hou, A.Y., Olson, W.S., Shie, C.-L., Lau, K.-M., Chou, M.-D., Lin, X. and Grecu, M. 2007. Use of high-resolution satellite observations to evaluate cloud and precipitation statistics from cloud-resolving model simulations. Part I: South China Sea monsoon experiment. *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences* 64: 4309-4329.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/feb/16feb2011a3.html>

[SEPP Comment: Timely review for claims that models link warming with flooding.]

Temperature and Precipitation Extremes: Models vs. Reality

Reference: Kiktev, D., Caesar, J., Alexander, L.V., Shiogama, H. and Collier, M. 2007. Comparison of observed and multimodeled trends in annual extremes of temperature and precipitation. *Geophysical Research Letters* 34: 10.1029/2007GL029539.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/feb/15feb2011a4.html>

["If climate model results are utilized as the basis for mandating a complete overhaul of the world's energy system - as the world's climate alarmists are attempting to do - the models should possess considerably more than moderate skill at what they do. But they definitely should not have low skill. And to employ models that have an absence of skill is the height of folly."]

Evolving Ideas about Climate and Human Disease

Reference: Harvell, D., Altizer, S., Cattadori, I.M., Harrington, L. and Weil, E. 2009. Climate change and wildlife diseases: When does the host matter the most? *Ecology* 90: 912-920.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/feb/16feb2011a1.html>

Climate Change and Infectious Diseases

Reference: Lafferty, K.D. 2009. The ecology of climate change and infectious diseases. *Ecology* 90: 888-900.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/feb/16feb2011a5.html>

More CO2 Enrichment Work on Wine Grapes

Reference: Moutinho-Pereira, J., Goncalves, B., Bacelar, E., Cunha, J.B., Coutinho, J. and Correia, C.M. 2009. Effects of elevated CO2 on grapevine (*Vitis vinifera*L.): Physiological and yield attributes. *Vitis* **48**: 159-165.

<http://www.nipccreport.org/articles/2011/feb/16feb2011a6.html>

[SEPP Comment: An article referenced in last week’s TWTW claimed that global warming will significantly damage wine production in Bordeaux region of France. The researcher did not address the benefits of CO2 enrichment.]

Other Scientific Issues

Worldwide Sulfur Emissions Rose Between 2000-2005, After Decade of Decline

By Staff Writers, SPX, Dec 17, 2011 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

http://www.terradaily.com/reports/Worldwide_Sulfur_Emissions_Rose_Between_2000_2005_After_Decade_Of_Decline_999.html

[SEPP Comment: Apparently from China and increase in international shipping. The effects of increased sulfur emissions are unclear.]

Building A Global Thermostat In L1

By Launchspace Staff, Space Daily, Feb 14, 2011 [H/t Toshio Fujita]

http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Building_A_Global_Thermostat_In_L1_999.html

Other Issues that May Be Of Interest

Malware Aimed at Iran Hit Five Sites, Report Says

By John Markoff, NYT, Feb 11, 2011 [H/t Warren Wetmore]

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/13/science/13stuxnet.html?_r=2&src=twrhp

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BELOW THE BOTTOM LINE:

Going bananas over radiation

By Anthony Watts, WUWT, Feb 16, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/02/16/going-bananas-over-radiation/#more-34152>

[SEPP Comment: An amusing post]

Forget CO2, US Debt “Causes” Warming

By Ira Glickstein, WUWT, Feb 16, 2011

<http://wattsupwiththat.com/2011/02/16/forget-co2-us-debt-causes-warming/#more-34055>

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ARTICLES:

1. Statement of H. Leighton Steward

To the US House Subcommittee on Energy and Power

In response to statements made February 9, 2011 by EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson and American Public Health Association representative Lynn Goldman, M.D.

By H. Leighton Steward, Chairman, PlantsneedCO2.org and CO2isgreen.org, Feb 16, 2011

<http://statement.co2isgreen.org/>

[SEPP Comment: A powerful challenge for credible evidence supporting EPA and APHA statements to Congress!]

The statement is being made in response to statements submitted to the Subcommittee on Energy and Power, Committee on Energy and Commerce, United States House of Representatives, February 9, 2011

by EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson and American Public Health Association representative Lynn Goldman, M.D.

Administrator Jackson begins by stating that all Americans rely on the Clean Air Act to protect them from harmful air pollution. I agree. Next, Administrator Jackson says she is relying on the 2007 Supreme Court decision that EPA could consider greenhouse gases an air pollutant. Administrator Jackson neglected to include that the Supreme Court also said the Administrator could exclude a greenhouse gas if she could present evidence that the gas was not a pollutant or endangerment to mankind. This gets to the heart of the issue since Administrator Jackson has singled out carbon dioxide as the key substance to regulate on the grounds that, as Administrator Jackson so frequently comments, “CO2 is a pollutant and an endangerment to mankind.” That anyone would say that CO2 is a pollutant is incredible, but particularly when said by Administrator Jackson who is a degreed chemical engineer. There is not a single case, short of multi-thousands of parts per million (ppm) of this trace gas, that indicates CO2 to be a pollutant. CO2 is the staff of life. Earth’s food chain begins with plants and as we all learned in elementary school, CO2 is what plants eat. In fact, as thousands of peer reviewed laboratory and field studies show, the more CO2 plants “eat”, the more robustly they grow. This is not speculation based upon man-made models; this is from real, empirical observations. I present three examples demonstrating that CO2 is not a pollutant; first, many commercial greenhouse operators grow the fruits and vegetables we buy in the grocery and where they and their staffs work, in an atmosphere of 1,000 ppm CO2. The workers suffer no ill effects and the plants grow profusely. Earth’s current atmosphere contains only 390 ppm. Secondly, as testified to the United States Senate, Princeton distinguished Professor William Happer has pointed that our very own government allows CO2 levels to build up to 8,000 ppm in our nuclear submarines where our sailors reside for weeks at a time. Thirdly, we breathe in the current 390 ppm of CO2 and breathe out 40,000 ppm (!) with our lungs incurring no toxic or detrimental effects. For this Administration and especially Administrator Jackson to continue to refer to CO2 as a pollutant is far worse than a slip of the tongue or exaggeration; it is grossly misleading to our country’s citizens.

That man-made CO2 is a primary cause of climate change is just a hypothesis. The hypothesis has not been proven and even the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) admits that when they do not say that they are 100% certain it is true. While proving that the hypothesis is true for such a complex subject is probably impossible, it is only prudent to examine whether it can be shown to be false. Webster’s dictionary defines hypothesis as a provisional theory accepted for the sake of argument and **testing**. Scientists are taught that a hypothesis must withstand its claims being verified or falsified by observing available empirical evidence. When Albert Einstein, in 1905, proposed the theory of relativity, he encouraged other scientists to try and refute it as demanded by the scientific method. Therefore, as a geologist and accustomed to looking back at what has happened in the past to understand why the Earth is physically like it is, I decided to use the same forensic approach to review Earth’s old climates, her paleoclimates. Sir Winston Churchill is credited with saying, “The farther backward you look, the farther forward you are likely to see;” certainly applicable here. Five years ago I began this forensic endeavor thinking I could look back at old temperatures and the often thousands of ppm of atmospheric CO2 and show the tremendous impact such elevated CO2 levels had on Earth’s paleoclimates. I could not find such impacts. I did find however, after reviewing “all” the scientific studies of others, determine that the hypotheses of significant CO2 induced climate change to be false and here is why:

1. Per Dr. Phil Jones, director of the Climate Research Unit (CRU) at East Anglia University, which is the prime source of climate data for the IPCC, despite the steep rise in CO2, there has been no statistically significant warming of the Earth for the last 15 years. Dr. Jones also has publicly admitted that, regarding anthropogenic global warming, the science is not settled.

2. When climate proxies, such as ice cores, tree rings, isotopic analysis of ocean, lake and soil samples, stalagmites, corals, and leaf shapes and stomata densities are cross correlated, they give us a good relative measurement of Earth's old temperatures vs. those of the last 150 years. These studies indicate that, even at much lower levels of CO₂ in the past, the USA's temperatures today are not the warmest of the last 100 years (1934 was warmer) the last 1,000 years (the Medieval Warm Period was warmer), the last 10,000 years (the Roman Warm Period, Minoan Warm Period and Holocene Optimum were as warm or warmer according to proxy studies), the last 400,000 years (where of the last five interglacials our current interglacial has had the highest CO₂ level yet is the coolest of the five) and to go way back, 430 million years ago, when there was glaciations down to 60 latitude while CO₂ levels were about 4,000 ppm; over 10 times as high as today.
3. Ice core analysis from Antarctica and Greenland show many intervals where CO₂ levels lag or follow temperature changes, not vice versa. A cause does not follow an effect.
4. The physical heat trapping ability of CO₂ declines logarithmically or very rapidly and at today's level cannot "trap" a significant amount of additional heat, consistent with the observations wherein paleotemperatures did not become catastrophically high even at CO₂ levels of several thousand ppm.

The above is empirical evidence. Administrator Jackson said the EPA reviewed thousands of public comments. Those comments included much of the same data I reference, yet she has refused to even mention this very most basic of scientific tests, the empirical test. The answer appears obvious; EPA cannot prevail in a discussion of real evidence so must rely on the output of climate modelers whose grants and very futures depend on generating the potential man-made catastrophes that satisfy the position articulated by the funding source.

What about the public position papers of the leading scientific societies that declares a belief in man-made global warming? None, to my knowledge, have agreed to take a vote of their membership. Most societies are run by a small group of leaders, mostly academics, whose universities depend, in part, on government grants. Why didn't Administrator Jackson mention the recent poll by "Scientific American", a very popular publication with scientists, which found that 77% of the thousands of respondents said they believed that climate was driven by natural causes, 83% said the IPCC was a corrupt organization, and 91% said the doubts about what is causing climate change should be publicly discussed.

Administrator Jackson said eleven electric power companies thought EPA has proposed a reasonable approach focusing on improving energy efficiency. I concur with improving energy efficiencies. Improved efficiency should always be a top priority. However, the same, regulated companies do not worry about carbon emission regulations because the consumer will ultimately pay whatever the increased costs.

None of us want to see pollutants negatively impact peoples' lives. I agree ... but CO₂ is not a pollutant! Nor has CO₂ been a significant cause of climate change. Combining results from thousands of peer reviewed studies, it appears, however, that CO₂ has, just since the industrial revolution 150 years ago, been responsible for a dramatic increase in the growth of Earth's plants and forests by over 50% (Mayeux, et al. 1997, Global Climate Change Biology 3,267-278. A further increase in atmospheric CO₂ will continue to cause additional growth in Earth's food supply.

Administrator Jackson also says pollution can cause many health related problems. Here, she did not actually say that CO₂ is a pollutant because CO₂ is not a health problem. Very importantly, our additional CO₂ has increased food production even more in the 1,000 ppm greenhouse environments. However,

should the EPA and others ultimately succeed in actually lowering Earth's CO₂ levels, the aforementioned agricultural studies indicate that going back to the industrial revolution levels of 280 ppm would reduce the world's food supply by the tremendous gains previously mentioned and probably starve many of the Earth's one billion severely undernourished individuals. Why was this not mentioned? I recommend the website for our non-profit at www.plantsneedco2.org and for even more information and substantiation, on the health and mortality impacts of climate change on his excellent website to www.CO2science.org.

Our ultimate hope is that the Administration and Administrator Jackson will do what President Obama promised the nation when he said he wanted decisions based on sound science. The Administration should reevaluate their astonishingly firm position to ram through regulations to reduce CO₂ levels. Adhering to strict CO₂ reduction goals will ultimately be borne by the consumer, will hurt the poor the most, and will drive jobs and even more companies overseas. Lastly, for the trillions it will cost, there will be miniscule impact on Earth's climate. Using the IPCC's own numbers and formulas, a severe reduction of 83% of the USA's CO₂ emissions by 2050 would only have 0.1 of one degree reduction in global temperatures by that date. Let's put part of the needless trillions into research needed to ultimately bring currently uneconomic alternative energies into commerciality. Administrator Jackson must be aware of all of this information. Why did she not balance her statement by including it?

The statement of Dr. Lynn Goldman is fraught with outright inaccuracies. Instead of relying upon all of the peer reviewed literature pertinent to writing the position paper of the American Public Health Association, they appear to have missed great numbers of easily available peer reviewed studies from around the world that refute their various positions. For instance, just from one excellent summary alone, "Climate Change Reconsidered" (CCR), 2009, published by the Heartland Institute, anyone can find references and summary statements included that directly contradict Dr. Goldman. Dr. Goldman's statements to the Subcommittee were concerning greenhouse gases and she particularly singled out that CO₂ is the major component of greenhouse gases, so I will also focus on CO₂. Below you will find some of Dr. Goldman's statements followed by a summary of peer reviewed studies, where available, from around the world. The comments and references are listed in the order they appear in Dr. Goldman's statement. I will paraphrase some comments to shorten this submittal and get straight to the point.

- 1) Dr. Goldman: EPA estimates that the first 20 years of the Clean Air Act prevented 200,000 premature deaths, 672,000 cases of bronchitis, 843,000 asthma attacks and 189,000 cardiovascular hospitalizations and that the six most common air pollutants decreased by 41%. Dr. Goldman did not say whether CO₂ was one of the six pollutants mentioned although many untrained readers could easily presume so since regulating CO₂ is the paramount subject of the Chairman's bill. Dr. Goldman, does the APHA have studies that show CO₂ played a part in any of the aforementioned health or mortality issues? I remind the Subcommittee and Dr. Goldman that we are breathing in only around 390 ppm of CO₂ but our lungs hold 40,000 ppm at the time we exhale. Isn't it blatantly clear that CO₂ is not toxic to our bodies at concentrations many multiples higher than Earth's atmosphere contain today? To the contrary, additional CO₂ has and is continuing to stimulate increased crop yield, our nutrients, and through photosynthesis, put the oxygen in the air that we breathe.
- 2) Dr. Goldman says the Supreme Court directed EPA to act on the science to protect the public health from the impacts of greenhouse gases which contribute to climate change. Fair enough, but the Supreme Court did not say the EPA had to consider CO₂ a pollutant if the EPA could simply provide information as to why CO₂ is not a pollutant and an endangerment to man-kind. Consider these facts; without greenhouse gases, Earth's surface temperature would be far below zero degrees Celsius and life as we know it would not exist. I know of no scientist on either side of this issue that would disagree. If there was no CO₂ greenhouse effect, Earth would be about

three degrees Celsius colder. The Little Ice Age with its rampant death and starvation was colder by only about one-half that amount. If there was no atmospheric CO₂, there would be no life on Earth's continents. Should the 180 ppm CO₂ level of the last glacial stage have fallen only 30 ppm to 150 ppm, photosynthesis would have declined dramatically and many of Earth's plants would have withered and died. I have summarized why CO₂ has been shown to not be a significant cause of climate change in discussing Administrator Jackson's statement. Is the EPA incapable of summarizing the obvious facts and not relying on inadequate models, as their reasons for excluding CO₂ from regulation under the Clean Air Act?

- 3) Dr. Goldman: "The United States is the leader in contributing to greenhouse gas globally and carbon dioxide is the major component of greenhouse gases." Absolutely doubly false as concerns CO₂. China surpassed the USA almost three years ago in CO₂ emissions and China has not agreed to be bound to firm levels of CO₂ emissions as proposed in any of the previous treaties. That CO₂ is the major greenhouse gas demonstrates how totally unknowledgeable Dr. Goldman and the APHA are regarding greenhouse gases and their impact on Earth's climate. Water vapor is by far the leading greenhouse gas, accounting for 95% of the gases by volume and up to 90% of the greenhouse effect. Shame on the APHA for reading environmental extremist blogs from which to draw their conclusions.
- 4) Dr. Goldman recommends the government implement environmental policies that will significantly reduce greenhouse gases. Dr. Goldman recommends we actually reduce CO₂, not just reduce the level of CO₂ emissions. As the CO₂ level drops, food production will drop. The ecosystems and habitats in our fields and forests will become less robust as indicated by the thousands of studies by the agricultural community, agricultural universities and commercial greenhouse operators. Ask the latter what would happen if they reduced the 1,000 ppm levels in their greenhouses back to the 390 ppm in our current atmosphere. Dr. Goldman, where are you finding peer reviewed studies that support this recommendation by you and the APHA?
- 5) Dr. Goldman recommends that we deploy wind, solar and geothermal. Wind and solar are not yet ready for prime time. They are far more costly and unreliable than fossil fuels. To burden our country needlessly by forcing the deployment of these non-commercial energies while the rest of the world uses the cheapest energies, would be unilateral economic suicide, hurt the poor the most, see jobs and industries follow the cheapest energies overseas, and negate our leadership in standard of living, healthcare and environmental stewardship. "Rich" countries lead the world in environmental practices. While the motives of the APHA may be genuine, the practical impacts of some of the recommendations are clearly negative.
- 6) Dr. Goldman says "Climate change is one of the greatest threats to human health. Scientists have stated in the strongest possible terms that human activities are to blame. The IPCC has unequivocally concluded that greenhouse gas (singular) is causing global warming." Unequivocal means certain and even the IPCC have not come to such a conclusion. Dr. Goldman continues: "This increase in Earth's temperature is causing more regional extreme weather events, increases and decreases in temperature and rainfall, may create (more) floods, heat waves, drought, poor air quality that lead to poor health outcomes such as heat strokes, injury, malnutrition, respiratory illnesses, asthma and infectious diseases." Dr. Goldman, there are 66 peer reviewed studies that show that longevity increases and/or diseases diminish in a warmer world. There are fewer deaths from heart attacks, strokes and respiratory diseases (CCR, 2009, pages 664 to 676). Also, 106 peer reviewed studies worldwide indicate 20th century droughts are no more frequent or severe than in the previous millennia and 47 more peer reviewed studies from North America, Europe and Asia indicate no increased frequency or severity of floods last century (CCR, 2009, pages 281 to 309). The statistical histogram put together by the Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Prediction Studies at Florida State University shows that global cyclone (hurricane) energy has trended down for 17 years and is currently at a 30 year low despite the 24/7 ongoing rise in atmospheric CO₂. Another histogram of the number of strong to violent tornados in the USA shows a clear downward trend for the past 35 years. Dr. Goldman, where are your peer reviewed

studies, based on actual data and not simply on someone's opinion, that refute these peer reviewed studies? Were you swayed by the claims in the Lancet and echoed by Secretary Sebelius of Health and Human Services immediately before the Copenhagen Conference that millions of deaths could be saved by lowering CO₂ emissions? Those statements are in direct contradiction to 25 peer reviewed studies from the United States, Russia, Japan, Norway, Korea, England, Australia, Brazil, Greece and Asia that showed a much higher death rate from heart attacks, strokes, and respiratory diseases following a drop in temperature versus following a heat event. (CCR, 2009, pages 664 to 667) Do you have evidence, as many people claim, that shows that people who move from New York City to Miami actually die earlier than their actuarial peers left behind? The average January temperature in New York City is 33° Fahrenheit and 77° in July. The January temperature in Miami is 68° or 45° Fahrenheit warmer and the July average in Miami is 83° or 6° warmer than New York City. Why has the United States population voluntarily migrated to the southern states if, as you suggest, warmer temperatures are so bad for the health of our citizens? The length of the growing seasons also lengthens dramatically as you move south or in years when the temperatures rise in the north. Are people stupid, health-wise, that voluntarily choose climates that average many degrees warmer? Dr. Paul Reiter of the Pasteur Institute for Infectious Diseases has testified that there is no evidence that mosquito borne malaria has increased as Earth has warmed. Dr. Goldman, if they exist, please furnish our lawmakers with peer reviewed studies that refute the above studies.

- 7) Dr. Goldman: "Chairman Upton's bill would prohibit EPA from taking further actions to implement the Renewable Fuels Program which promotes the domestic production of advanced bio-fuels." I say "great" if it will allow our lawmakers to decide which bio-fuels make sense. The mandated use of ethanol is clearly a disaster in that it has greatly increased the price of corn, hurting the poor and undernourished the most, taken more standard fuel energy to make a gallon of ethanol than the energy created, and its utilizes more wild lands which could lead to the extinction of more species. One gallon of ethanol contains only 70% as much energy as regular gasoline so every bit you add lowers the miles per gallon of your car. Even Al Gore has publicly admitted his mistake in advocating the use of ethanol. Despite this, our Administration and obviously the APHA, is still recommending more bio-fuel production of ethanol.

In summary, the peer reviewed science plus empirical observations and common sense speak for themselves. To ignore this is the true endangerment to mankind.

2. The Sad State of the State of California

By S. Fred Singer, American Thinker, Feb 18, 2011

http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/02/the_sad_state_of_the_state_of.html

Many must be wondering whether the state of California is beyond repair. This is particularly true after the November 2010 elections when its citizens voted for the same politicians that have brought them the same failed policies. As deficits mount and taxes increase, productive people and enterprises are leaving California for more hospitable states. Inevitably, there will be a tipping point when the state divides between a large welfare population that controls the vote and the rich who live in gated communities but whose tax revenues cannot support the state's obligations.

Good indicators of the outward migration are the prices of U-Haul vehicles. To rent a 26-foot truck one-way from San Francisco to Austin costs [\\$3236](#), and yet the one-way charge for that same truck from Austin to San Francisco is just \$399. Even so, U-Haul has to pay its employees to drive the empty trucks back from Texas.

According to CEI, California is a state where public employees have three times the pension benefits of private employees and 20% higher pay, in addition to secure jobs. This becomes quite evident when one

looks at the salaries paid to California's university administrators, where deans can make over \$300,000 per year, according to the *LA Times*. Keep in mind also that the California education system is super-heavy with deans, provosts, and other administrators. Having served as a dean, I can vouch for the fact that deans are mostly paper-shufflers who have abandoned teaching and research.

It is not surprising that the politics of the UC faculty is heavily skewed. According to the *LA Times*, the ratio of political donations in 2008 to Democratic vs. Republican candidates was 800 to 1 for UC Berkeley -- and even higher for some of the smaller campuses.

Wrote Jack Pitney, a professor at Claremont McKenna College, on the *National Review's* blog. "California voters approved of President Obama's performance by a 10-point margin, whereas the national electorate disapproved by nine points." "It's a different kind of state," he said. That may be the understatement of 2010.

A large part of the state's Democratic tilt comes from its massive Latino population, who voted for Democrats two to one. The Los Angeles Times noted that it made up 22% of the voting pool, "a record tally that mortally wounded many Republicans."

How bad has it gotten in the erstwhile Golden State? According to [*Investor's Business Daily*](#):

- Some 2.3 million Californians are without jobs, for a 12.4 percent unemployment rate -- one of the highest in the country.
- From 2001 to 2010, factory jobs plummeted from 1.87 million to 1.23 million -- a loss of 34 percent of the state's industrial base.
- With just 12 percent of the U.S. population, California has almost a third of the nation's welfare recipients; meanwhile, 15.3 percent of all Californians live in poverty.
- The state budget gap for 2009-2010 was \$45.5 billion, or 53 percent of total state spending -- the largest in any state's history.
- Unfunded pension liabilities for California's state and public employees may be as much as \$500 billion -- roughly 17 percent of the nation's total \$3 trillion at the state and local level.

California is rapidly approaching bankruptcy, a new experience for states, with New York and Illinois not far behind. According to the *Wall Street Journal* (Nov 8, 2010), California has \$70 billion of general obligation debt -- and that does not include the \$500 billion unfunded pension liability. At some point, will it ask Congress for a bailout, and how likely is that with the new Republican majority?

Assistant editor of *opinionjournal.com* Allysia Finlay (a lapsed Californian who still wears Birkenstocks) writes:

"...your government is run by a brothel of environmentalists, lawyers, public sector unions, and legislative bums...When you inevitably crash and burn, don't count on us to bail you out."

Columnist George Will has a few choice things to say in a Dec 26, 2010 essay: "80 cents of every government dollar goes to government employees' pay and benefits." He cites an example: "A typical San Francisco resident with one dependent pays \$953 a month for health care, while the typical city employee pays less than \$10." He too warns against any kind of federal bailout.

William E. Simon Jr. relates in the online [*Wall Street Journal*](#):

"California faces its most serious budget crisis since the Great Depression. Newly inaugurated Gov. Jerry Brown is inheriting a deficit that is expected to be at least \$28 billion over the next 18 months.

Nonpartisan legislative analysts project a long-term structural gap of some \$20 billion per year between revenues and expenditures in the state's general fund, on an annual budget that is now \$93 billion."

I have just returned from a lecture tour of the glamour spots of Southern California: Pasadena, Bel Air, Newport Beach, La Jolla. But there is also the other side: Victor Davis Hanson, who grew up on a farm near Fresno, describes the problems in California's rural heartland, which is beginning to look more and more like a Third World slum in [National Review-online](#) 2010:

"[I see] former small farms - the vineyards overgrown with weeds, or torn out with the ground lying fallow. ... I don't think I can remember another time when so many acres in the eastern part of the valley have gone out of production, even though farm prices have recently rebounded. Apparently it is simply not worth the gamble of investing \$7,000 to \$10,000 an acre in a new orchard or vineyard.

On the western side of the Central Valley, the effects of arbitrary cutoffs in federal irrigation water have idled tens of thousands of acres of prime agricultural land, leaving thousands unemployed. ... California coastal elites may worry about the oxygen content of water available to a three-inch smelt in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, but they seem to have no interest in the epidemic dumping of trash, furniture, and often toxic substances throughout California's rural hinterland."

In a letter to his children, Hanson suggests they prepare themselves for leaving California:

"-since the chance of political change is becoming less likely by the year: The recent election demonstrates that the voters simply refuse to face up to the task of throwing out the politicians who are directly responsible for the state's problems. Hells bells, back in the 1970s, Jerry Brown was the governor who let state employees organize in unions, and set the state retirement system on the road to its present actuarial disaster. Incredibly, he just got elected governor again, along with a complete slate of candidates who have spent their political careers furthering the policies which got California into the social, economic, fiscal and regulatory mess it's in right now."

On top of all this, California suffers from the activities and malfeasance of CARB, the California Air Resources Board, run by Mary Nichols, a former assistant EPA administrator in Washington. Further, the unelected CARB governing board is democratically unaccountable. CARB has worked to impose a cap-and-trade program for CO₂ emissions, a tighter set of automobile efficiency standards, and to top it off, a renewable electricity standard requiring utilities to purchase 20% of their electric power from solar and wind by 2020. Any of these programs if enacted, would raise the cost of living, and would affect primarily low-income groups -- except that those groups are all covered by welfare programs. So guess who pays for all this?

In addition, CARB has conducted a vendetta against whistleblowers who have exposed fraud and cover up at CARB; it has [pressured UCLA](#) to fire environmental health sciences professor Dr. James Enstrom, who has worked there for 35 years. The specific dispute involves the CARB plan to impose an unreasonable pollution standard on Diesel exhausts, not backed by scientific evidence. It would also [put out of business](#) California's trucking industry, a major part of the state's economy. The CARB actions, and UCLA, have been criticized by California newspapers from San Diego to San Francisco.

The latest from CARB is their effort to impose a cap-and-trade policy that even the legislature has never been able to pass. Just last week, a San Francisco Supreme Court judge issued a ruling that would stop CARB from implementing its plan.

As Conn Carol recounts in *Energy and Environment* (Feb 7 2011), the plaintiff was a group called the Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment. They object to any market-based system of pollution control, believing that industries will be able to pay for pollution allowances and thus keep emitting "dangerous" CO₂.

California also boasts an energy commission, created by Jerry Brown during his first term as governor. Its lead website headline, as Schwarzenegger was leaving, was an FAQ about "new light bulb standards." Chuck DeVore, 2010 Republican candidate for the US Senate, [writes](#):

This says it all about Schwarzenegger's energy policies: completely beholden to environmental fantasy. ... one of Schwarzenegger's self-identified "legacies" was his signing of AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB 32 will soon lead to further increases in California's already nation-leading electricity and transportation fuel costs. The George C. Marshall Institute estimates that AB 32's low-carbon fuel standard and cap-and-trade scheme will hit California families for an additional \$570 to \$6,500 per year in higher transportation costs."

3. Disasters happen

And the appropriate response is to prepare for and adapt to them

By Bob Carter, Quadrant Online, Feb 13, 2011

<http://www.quadrant.org.au/blogs/doomed-planet/2011/02/disasters-happen>

Natural disasters are in the news in both Australia and New Zealand. Leaving aside the September 4th Christchurch earthquake as being in a different hazard category, the recent summer outburst of cyclones, storms and floods in both countries is well understood by scientists to be linked to the La Nina part of the Pacific Ocean's El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) climatic cycle.

Despite strident claims by global warming pressure groups, no scientific evidence exists that human carbon dioxide emissions have anything to do with our current climatic woes. Rather, the weather events that are causing us so much present grief represent instabilities related to both short term (ENSO) and longer term (Pacific Decadal Oscillation – PDO) climatic oscillations. That such events would occur is not only predictable in principle, but (in the Australian case) was actually predicted in February 2009 by Dr. Stewart Franks from Newcastle University, who [wrote](#):

The historical record of climate variability suggests that we should expect a return to a 20-40 year period where La Nina dominates the climate of at least eastern Australia once more. The observation that many regions of Australia routinely experience multi-decadal variability of flood and drought, suggest that we should expect a return to major widespread flooding on a regular inter-annual basis, and for entirely natural reasons.

In the light of subsequent events, it is astonishing that Dr Franks' accurate caution, including earlier comments that he made in widely read international peer-reviewed research journals, was ignored by Australian planning authorities and by their IPCC-linked advisory scientists.

The problem, then, is one of dealing better with natural climatic vagary, and the fashionable idea that reducing human carbon dioxide emissions will reduce either the number or magnitude of climatic disasters in the future is both silly and irresponsible; and especially so given the huge cost and great disbenefits to poorer people and countries that are associated with such policies.

That human carbon dioxide emissions are to blame for recent climatic disasters is completely without scientific foundation. As noted in a Feb. 10th [article](#) in the Wall Street Journal -

researchers have yet to find evidence of more-extreme weather patterns over the period [since 1871], contrary to what the models predict”, and “it’s possible that even if we spend trillions of dollars, and forgo trillions more in future economic growth, to cut carbon emissions to pre-industrial levels, the climate will continue to change—as it always has.

These statements are true, though the caveat should be made that “certain” would have been a more accurate choice of word than “possible” with respect to the continuation of climate change. The public understands this well but the politicians do not, as exemplified by two polls published yesterday.

The first [poll](#), in *The Age*, garnered an 89% “no” answer to the question: “*Would you support a climate tax?*”.

The second [poll](#), in *The Australian*, delivered an 85% “no” to the question: “*Is Tim Flannery the right person to be Australia’s climate commissioner?*”.

Clearly, a chasm has opened up between Australian public opinion and current government thinking on carbon dioxide taxation and climate policy, and a Climate Commission, especially one headed by Tim Flannery, is unlikely to rectify this situation.

Nonetheless, an [announcement](#) made yesterday is perhaps a sign of new, and more realistic, thinking. When Prime Ministers John Key and Julia Gillard meet in Wellington next week, they are expected to announce the creation of a joint crisis management team to develop and exercise plans for a common response to natural disasters in the region. The team will be made up of officers from the defence forces of both countries, and initial planning will centre around the use of the multi-role supply ship *HMNZS Canterbury* as a central part of response operations. This welcome development is precisely the sort of imaginative and cost-effective planning that is needed to deal with natural disasters in the Australasian area.

In similar fashion, the way we should respond to climatic hazard is by preparation for, and adaptation to, all dangerous climatic events as and when they develop.

New Zealand’s world-best-practice GeoNet hazard system has most recently proved its worth in assisting public understanding and management of the Christchurch earthquake.

The time has come for GeoNet to add to its list of responsibilities the provision of independent and impartial advice on long term climate hazard. And Australian politicians need to give urgent consideration to setting up a similarly excellent national hazard management system here too.

As a January 17th [editorial](#) in *The Australian* noted:

There is nothing people can do to stop rains, generated by the La Nina weather pattern on the east coast [of Australia], which are part of a natural cycle we are only beginning to understand. But nature need not dictate the way we respond.

4. A Shale Of A Difference

Editorial, IBD, Feb 17, 2011

<http://www.investors.com/NewsAndAnalysis/Article/563537/201102171832/A-Shale-Of-A-Difference.htm?>

Energy: The brightest hope for America's energy independence has been shut down by an Interior Department that says it wants to review the rules for leases. It really wants to kill off oil altogether. The game is this: Say that you want to find domestic oil and gas in a "smart" way, so you have to study things for a while.

Then let enviros tie you up in court to block what you really don't want to do anyway, increase America's supply of domestic energy, keeping jobs and money here.

On Tuesday, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced that the Obama administration is going to take a "fresh look" at oil shale leasing rules put forward in 2008 by President George W. Bush to develop oil-rich land in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

We've been here before. After the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, which was caused by a single drilling rig explosion, all deepwater rigs were shut down while the administration took a fresh look at safety rules and procedures. A de facto moratorium remains in the form of a snails-pace permitting process.

The Bush rules would have opened up about 2 million acres of federal land in what is known as the Green River Formation to the possible commercial-scale development of oil shale and tar sands.

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates the region, dubbed the "Persia of the West," may hold more than 1.5 trillion barrels of oil, six times the proven reserves of Saudi Arabia, and enough to meet U.S. oil needs for the next two centuries.

A greenie group, Earthjustice, filed two federal lawsuits against the rules in January 2009 on behalf of 13 environmental groups. They claim oil shale production techniques had neither been perfected nor reviewed and that royalties paid to the government were set too low.

This, of course, was nonsense. Royalties were and are negotiable, something oil companies would gladly pay for access to this job-creating and economy-boosting energy treasure trove.

Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," is a proven technique where the oil trapped in the porous shale is loosened through the injection under pressure of fluids, including water.

"This 60-year-old technique has been responsible for 7 billion barrels of oil and 600 trillion cubic feet of natural gas," according to Sen. James Inhofe, ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee. "In hydraulic fracturing's 60-year-history, there has not been a single documented case of contamination."

The review announced by Salazar settles the two lawsuits for now and may delay shale development for a long time, if not forever.

"Oil shale is an important resource for the U.S.," said Salazar, a former U.S. senator from Colorado. "We need to move forward and examine the possibility of developing oil shale resources as part of our national portfolio, but we need to do it in a smart way."

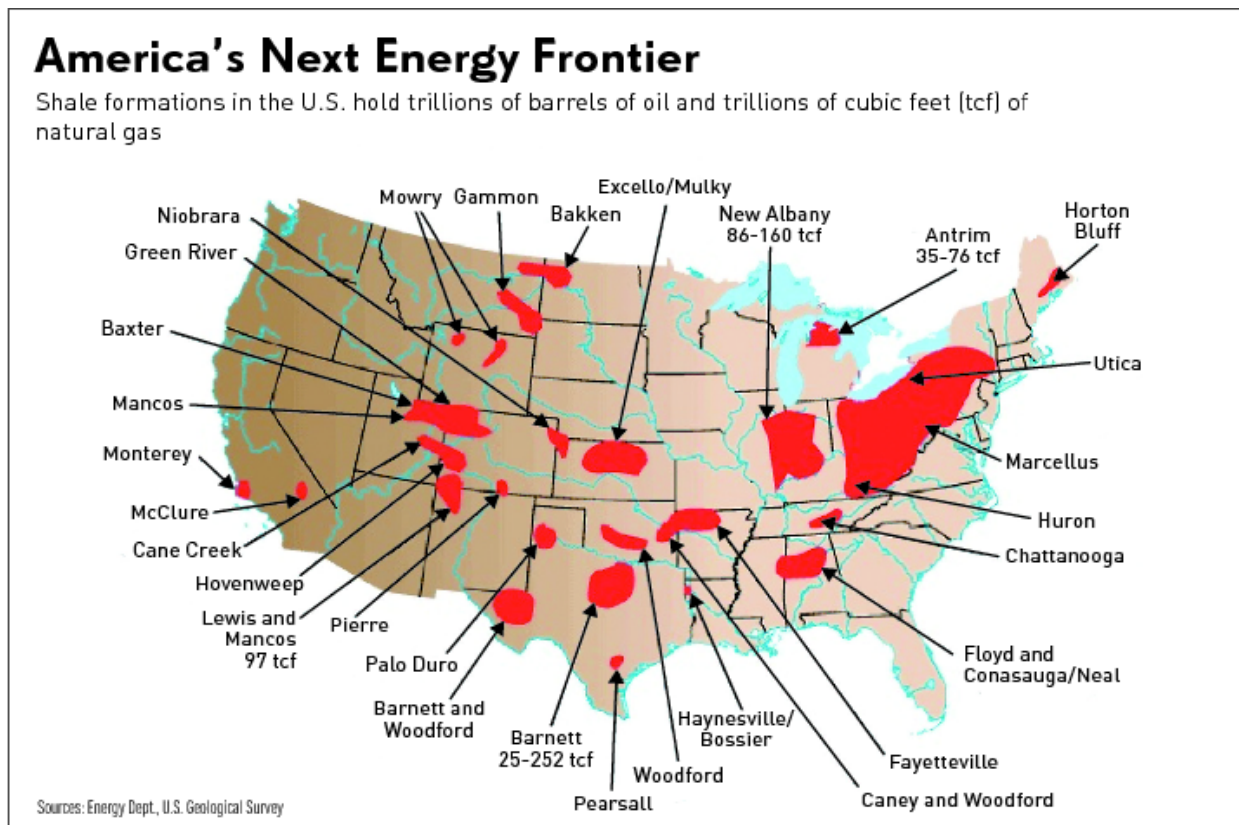
Horsefeathers. The administration doesn't want to develop our oil resources at all as evidenced by the continuing de facto moratorium in the Gulf, the very real seven-year offshore drilling ban imposed off both coasts and in the eastern Gulf, as well as the designation of oil-rich areas in Alaskan waters as "critical habitat" for the quite numerous polar bear population.

The Obama administration's policy is study forever, drill never. By 2015, oil executives and industry analysts say, the oil-rich lands of the West, including North Dakota's booming Bakken formation, could produce 2 million barrels a day, more than the pre-Deepwater Horizon production rate in the Gulf.

Within a decade these fields could cut our oil imports in half. Other shale formations, such as the Marcellus straddling Pennsylvania and New York, hold similar promise. But energy promise is all we're getting from an administration that has declared war on fossil fuels.

As the price of energy rises, so does everything from the costs of heating our homes, to driving our cars, to transporting our goods, to growing our food.

Something to think about the next time you're in the checkout line or at the gas pump.



5. Hitting EPA's Pause Button – What Are the Benefits, Risks?

By Marlo Lewis, Cooler Heads Coalition, Feb 17, 2011

<http://www.globalwarming.org/2011/02/17/hitting-epas-pause-button-what-are-the-benefits-risks/>

Yesterday (Feb. 16), House Energy and Power Subcommittee Chairman [Ed Whitfield](#) (R-KY) engaged in a colloquy with Interior and Agriculture Subcommittee Chairman Mike Simpson (R-ID) on Sec. 1746 of [H.R. 1, the One-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011](#).

Sec. 1746 of H.R. 1 states:

None of the funds made available to the Environmental Protection Agency by this division or any other Act may be expended for purposes of enforcing or promulgating any regulation (other than with respect to section 202 of the Clean Air Act) or order, taking action relating to, or denying approval of state

implementation plans or permits because of the emissions of greenhouse gases due to concerns regarding possible climate change.

Sec. 1746 would block EPA regulation of greenhouse gases from stationary sources for the remainder of fiscal year 2011, which ends on September 30. “The funding limitation will allow Congress to carefully and thoroughly debate a permanent clarification to the Clean Air Act to ensure it remains a strong tool for protecting public health by regulating and mitigating air pollutants, and that it is not transformed into a vehicle to impose a national energy tax,” explains Chairman Whitfield’s press release. Whitfield is a co-sponsor of the [Energy Tax Prevention Act](#), which would overturn the legal force and effect of EPA’s Endangerment Rule, Tailoring Rule, and other rules imposing greenhouse gas permitting requirements on state governments and stationary sources.

In the colloquy, Chairman Simpson states: “EPA’s GHG regulations need to be stopped in their tracks, and that’s what section 1746 does – it provides a timeout for the balance of the fiscal year, during which time EPA will be prohibited from acting on them or enforcing them.” In Whitfield’s words: “This CR [Continuing Resolution] provision is Congress hitting the pause button during the very brief period of the CR, allowing time to go through regular order and pass the Upton-Inhofe bill.”

Whitfield spotlights the constitutional principle at stake: “EPA’s regulations are an attempt by unelected bureaucrats to slip in through the regulatory backdoor what Congress has thus far wisely blocked from coming in through the front door.” The Energy Tax Prevention Act takes no position on climate science. As Simpson remarks, one need not be a global warming skeptic to be an “EPA GHG [greenhouse gas] regulation skeptic.”

The political benefits of Congress passing Sec. 1746 are obvious. It would be a clear rebuke to EPA’s [shocking power grab](#). It would put Team Obama on notice that Congress is determined to defend the separation of powers. It would energize congressional and public support for a more permanent solution to the ‘EPA problem.’ It would draw a big bright line in the sand helping the public identify which Members of Congress want to raise energy prices and which do not.

This defunding, or appropriations rider, strategy, as it is sometimes called, however, is not without economic risk.

“Rider striking funds for EPA regs could cause unintended consequences for industry,” yesterday’s *Greenwire* ([subscription required](#)) reports. The article explains:

The rider does nothing to nullify the 2009 finding that greenhouse gases endanger human health, or to reverse EPA’s final rules, including its prevention of significant deterioration guidelines or the tailoring rule, which lays out the agency’s timetable for regulating greenhouse gases from large stationary emitters.

By simply defunding the agency’s greenhouse gas permitting programs, Congress would do nothing to remove EPA’s obligation to address greenhouse gases through the permitting process, the [unidentified industry] attorney said.

“It doesn’t change the fact that those rules and regulations are final,” the attorney said.

Which means, notes Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA):

“The legislation is there, you’re not repealing the legislation, so EPA has a legal responsibility to implement the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, other pieces of legislation that are still on the books,”

he said yesterday. “That’s their responsibility, and they really can’t shirk that responsibility just because Congress doesn’t provide them the resources. The Congress has to either repeal the law, or be it reluctantly, they’re just going to have to fund the resources to carry out the law.”

Both Moran and *Greenwire* miss a more important point. The Clean Air Act imposes obligations not just on EPA but **also on regulated entities** such as power plants, refineries, factories, and other emission sources.

Under the Act, before a firm may build or modify a “major emitting facility,” it must undertake a “best available control technology” (BACT) analysis and, on that basis, apply for and obtain a “prevention of significant deterioration” (PSD) pre-construction permit. Similarly, before a firm may operate a major emitting facility, it must obtain a Title V operating permit.

EPA has issued regulations applying PSD and Title V to greenhouse gases. Those are already on the books, and they impose legal requirements on private entities as well as on EPA and state permitting agencies. Thus, even if EPA lacks the funds to administer PSD and Title V for greenhouse gases, major greenhouse gas emitting facilities must still obtain PSD and Title V permits **or they cannot lawfully build, modify, or operate**.

Moreover, even if EPA lacks the funds to prosecute firms for failing to obtain permits, **eco-litigation groups could still drag those firms into court under Clean Air Act citizen-suit provisions**. Trial lawyers could have a field day as affected firms find themselves in a Catch-22. On the one hand, the law (the Clean Air Act as interpreted by EPA rules) would require firms to obtain PSD and Title V permits for greenhouse gases. On the other hand, the law (the appropriations rider) would prevent them from doing so.

It’s not even clear that Sec. 1746 would stop **the government** from enforcing EPA’s greenhouse regulations. The language says nothing about withholding funds from the Department of Justice, so DOJ prosecutors could enforce EPA’s regs even if EPA couldn’t.

The side effects of this bizarre situation are potentially serious. Construction projects might have to be mothballed or cancelled for lack of proper permits. Otherwise healthy firms facing novel litigation risks might be unable to obtain financing or venture capital.

Considerations of this sort led Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski to abandon an appropriations rider strategy she had been exploring in late 2009 and instead introduce legislation to overturn EPA’s Endangerment Rule — the headwaters of EPA’s greenhouse regulatory surge.

The question for opponents of EPA’s power grab, therefore, is whether the political benefits of a defunding strategy outweigh the economic risks. This is a prudential matter about which reasonable people may disagree. I will hazard two observations.

(1) The best way to minimize the potential collateral damage to regulated entities is to quickly enact legislation that overturns EPA’s greenhouse gas rules. If passage of Sec. 1746 galvanizes congressional action toward that end, then it would likely do more good than harm. (2) However, if enactment of Sec. 1746 leads to construction bottlenecks and an upsurge of anti-business litigation while Congress is still debating the Energy Tax Prevention Act or similar measures, the rider strategy could damage the credibility of EPA’s congressional critics.

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