



THE WEEKLY CLOSER

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AP's '100 Scientists' Should Be Called '19 Gore Supporters'
By Rachel Waters
Business & Media Institute
June 29, 2006

INHOFE INTRODUCES BILL TO REAUTHORIZE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION ACT

Last night Chairman Inhofe introduced a bill to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). The NAWCA program is a valuable non-regulatory matching grants program that leverages federal dollars with state and private dollars to conserve wetlands habitat for migratory birds and other fish and wildlife.

"I'm proud to introduce legislation to reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act," Senator Inhofe said. "The program has enjoyed tremendous success since its conception in 1989 and supported by several conservation and recreational organizations. Because of NAWCA, numerous cooperative partnerships have developed between public and private resources. I believe the NAWCA program serves as an exemplary model of cooperative conservation that further improves our nation's environment."

Information on NAWCA can be found at [Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)

- The Act was passed, in part, to support activities under the [American Waterfowl Management Plan](#), an international agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetlands and associated uplands habitats needed by waterfowl and other migratory birds in North America. In December 2002, Congress reauthorized the Act and expanded its scope to include the conservation of all habitats and birds associated with wetlands ecosystems. Congress also increased the appropriation authorization to \$55 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003, with \$5 million increases to occur annually until FY 2007, when the appropriation cap will be \$75 million.
- From September 1990 through June 2006, more than 3,150 partners have been involved in 1,556 Standard and Small Grants Programs'

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projects combined. More than \$742 million in Act grants has leveraged some \$1.5 billion in matching funds and \$809.5 million in non-matching funds to affect approximately 23 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands across the continent.

Broad support for NAWCA reauthorization includes: American Fisheries Society * American Rivers * American Sportfishing Association * Archery Trade Association * Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies * B.A.S.S./ESPN Outdoors * Bear Trust International * Boone and Crockett Club * Bowhunting Preservation Alliance * California Outdoor Heritage Alliance * California Waterfowl Association * Campfire Club of America * Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation * Conservation Force * Dallas Safari Club * Ducks Unlimited * Izaak Walton League of America * National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses * National Marine Manufacturers Association * National Rifle Association * National Shooting Sports Foundation * National Wild Turkey Federation * North American Bear Foundation * North American Grouse Partnership * Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association * Pheasants Forever * Pope and Young Club * Quail Forever * Quality Deer Management Association * Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation * Ruffed Grouse Society * Safari Club International * Sand County Foundation * The Trust For Public Land * Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership * Texas Wildlife Association * Trout Unlimited * United States Sportsmen's Alliance * Whitetails Unlimited * Wildlife Forever * Wildlife Habitat Council * Wildlife Management Institute *

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INHOFE CALLS ON EPA TO IMPROVE RISK ASSESSMENT

On Thursday, Chairman Inhofe welcomed the recommendations in a new report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) titled "Human Health Risk Assessment: EPA has Taken Steps to Strengthen Its Process, but Improvements Needed in Planning, Data Development, and Training." The report was commissioned at Senator Inhofe's request and was released today by the Chairman's office.

"The GAO report released today shows that while EPA has taken small steps to improve the quality of risk assessment, significant work remains. Specifically troubling to me is that the GAO found training for the EPA risk assessment staff inadequate and that they are reluctant to embrace the latest scientific methods," Senator Inhofe said.

"Additionally, GAO found that despite several recommendations from the National Academy of Sciences and others, including the EPA's own internal guidance documents, the EPA continues to fail to adequately seek data and input from stakeholders early on, particularly from the research community."

"Finally, I'm concerned over information contained in this report suggesting that EPA does not provide transparent and clear explanations of the analytical decisions it makes during the course of a risk assessment. Making improvements in these areas is critical to ensuring the public can have

confidence in the EPA's use of science and that the science can be relied upon for important policy decisions.”

The GAO report is attached and will also be available beginning Friday at: www.gao.gov Report number GAO-06-595

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OPENING STATEMENT: OVERSIGHT HEARING ON EPA REGIONAL INCONSISTENCIES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Today we are going to take a hard look at the organizational structure of the EPA and whether it contributes to damaging and unfair practices against states and businesses. I am referring to the regional structure that divides the agency into ten different geographical regions headed by a Regional Administrator managing approximately 1,000 EPA career employees. Because of this design, EPA regions are notoriously autonomous and have been known to advance their own priorities and agendas. Some regional flexibility is necessary. However, when regions make their own determination of law, we end up with ten different sets of rules for the regulated communities throughout the country. This is unfair to similarly situated businesses located in different regions. For example, businesses in a particularly aggressive region must comply with requirements that the same businesses in another region do not. The GAO will inform us of their studies on this issue and what they believe EPA could do to address this.

We will also hear today of an example of a renegade region whose interpretation of laws is not only contrary to national practice and standards but has been openly questioned by Congress and the Judicial Branch. When District Judge Gilbert threw out a Region 5 pesticide criminal case -- filed days before the statute of limitations ran -- he questioned the Government's judgment in filing the case and declared the statute unconstitutionally vague as applied. Unfortunately, this was after the defendant, Wabash Valley, a farmer-owned co-op, paid over \$220,000 to defend itself. Wabash Valley, however, was willing to spend any amount of money to keep their pesticide applicator out of jail for allegedly “applying pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.”

Another troubling incident occurred this past December. The Illinois agriculture community was shocked when Region 5 determined that the entire fertilizer retail industry -- approximately 500 members -- was not in compliance with the Clean Air Act because they did not include so-called nurse tanks in their Risk Management Plans. This Region 5 requirement was never communicated to the Ag. Community and is not required in other regions. In fact, Region 5's first contact with the fertilizer retailers was to send enforcement letters to the members who had bothered to file RMPs only, threatening fines of \$32,500 per day. Incredibly, the letters were mailed out on December 15 and gave the rural businessmen and women only ten days to respond over the Christmas holidays. Jean Payne, the President of the Illinois

Fertilizer and Chemical Association is here to provide the facts of this story.

As a former businessman myself, I can speak to the challenges of disputing the federal government and bureaucracies like the EPA. It is not hard to imagine the level of fear and uncertainty that accompanies letters like these for the average citizen. I became aware of the situation immediately after the fertilizer retailers received the letters and I opened an inquiry as Chairman of the Committee of jurisdiction. I felt that someone had to help these farmers deal with the EPA.

Consequently, there are many important lessons we can learn from studying the EPA regional structure and how inconsistent enforcement impacts the regulated community, the states, and their relationship with one another. I am interested to hear from the states' perspective -- through Dave Paylor, the Director of the Virginia DEQ -- how the EPA regions affect their ability to effectively monitor and enforce the environmental laws.

Finally, another important aspect that requires review when evaluating the EPA regions is the bureaucracy factor. Does the presence of only one Administration appointee hamper effective policy implementation? To what extent are unelected officials setting policy in the regions? If bureaucrats are managing the regions, how can we be sure that the public's wishes are translated into policy and realistically implemented? I am a firm believer that elected officials who answer to a constituency can best manage according to the public's will. Dr. Richard Waterman, author of the book *Bureaucrats, Politics, and the Environment*, is here today to help us understand the nuances accompanying the EPA bureaucracy and the strength of their voice in government today.

With unlimited resources, the EPA must be mindful of prosecution tactics that can actually survive judicial scrutiny. We should not hear about cases that are thrown out with judicial commentary chastising the government for filing a criminal case. I will continue to oversee the EPA regional activities to ensure that we are effectively protecting the environment as well as our citizens.

And a note to Mr. Schaeffer on the second panel, in your testimony you criticize the purpose of today's hearing as being motivated by the Region 5 example from last December. My staff began this oversight initiative over a year ago and more than six months before the Region 5 example took place. They discovered the problem in Region 5 during the investigation.

It is my intention that today's hearing will be the first in a series over the next two years looking at how the EPA bureaucracy operates. I am considering field hearings at the EPA Regional offices, and I welcome suggestions from the States, regulated community, and other stakeholders.

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**AP INCORRECTLY CLAIMS SCIENTISTS PRAISE
GORE'S MOVIE**

The June 27, 2006 Associated Press (AP) article titled “Scientists OK Gore’s Movie for Accuracy” by Seth Borenstein raises some serious questions about AP’s bias and methodology.

AP chose to ignore the scores of scientists who have harshly criticized the science presented in former Vice President Al Gore’s movie “An Inconvenient Truth.”

In the interest of full disclosure, the AP should release the names of the “more than 100 top climate researchers” they attempted to contact to review “An Inconvenient Truth.” AP should also name all 19 scientists who gave Gore “five stars for accuracy.” AP claims 19 scientists viewed Gore’s movie, but it only quotes five of them in its article. AP should also release the names of the so-called scientific “skeptics” they claim to have contacted.

The AP article quotes Robert Corell, the chairman of the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment group. It appears from the article that Corell has a personal relationship with Gore, having viewed the film at a private screening at the invitation of the former Vice President. In addition, Correll’s reported links as an “affiliate” of a Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm that provides “expert testimony” in trials and his reported sponsorship by the left-leaning Packard Foundation, were not disclosed by AP. See <http://www.junkscience.com/feb06.htm>

The AP also chose to ignore Gore’s reliance on the now-discredited “hockey stick” by Dr. Michael Mann, which claims that temperatures in the Northern Hemisphere remained relatively stable over 900 years, then spiked upward in the 20th century, and that the 1990’s were the warmest decade in at least 1000 years. Last week’s National Academy of Sciences report dispelled Mann’s often cited claims by reaffirming the existence of both the Medieval Warm Period and the Little Ice Age. See Senator Inhofe’s [statement](#) on the broken “Hockey Stick.”

Gore’s claim that global warming is causing the snows of Mt. Kilimanjaro to disappear has also been debunked by scientific reports. For example, a 2004 study in the journal Nature makes clear that Kilimanjaro is experiencing less snowfall because there’s less moisture in the air due to deforestation around Kilimanjaro.

Here is a sampling of the views of some of the scientific critics of Gore:

Professor Bob Carter, of the Marine Geophysical Laboratory at James Cook University in Australia, on Gore’s film:

"Gore's circumstantial arguments are so weak that they are pathetic. It is simply incredible that they, and his film, are commanding public attention."

"The man is an embarrassment to US science and its many fine practitioners, a lot of whom know (but feel unable to state publicly) that his propaganda crusade is mostly based on junk science." – Bob Carter as quoted in the [Canadian Free Press](#), June 12, 2006

Richard S. Lindzen, the Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Atmospheric Science at

MIT, wrote:

“A general characteristic of Mr. Gore’s approach is to assiduously ignore the fact that the earth and its climate are dynamic; they are always changing even without any external forcing. To treat all change as something to fear is bad enough; to do so in order to exploit that fear is much worse.” - Lindzen wrote in an [op-ed](#) in the June 26, 2006 Wall Street Journal

Gore’s film also cites a review of scientific literature by the journal Science which claimed 100% consensus on global warming, but Lindzen pointed out the study was flat out incorrect.

“...A study in the journal Science by the social scientist Nancy Oreskes claimed that a search of the ISI Web of Knowledge Database for the years 1993 to 2003 under the key words “global climate change” produced 928 articles, all of whose abstracts supported what she referred to as the consensus view. A British social scientist, Benny Peiser, checked her procedure and found that only 913 of the 928 articles had abstracts at all, and that only 13 of the remaining 913 explicitly endorsed the so-called consensus view. Several actually opposed it.” - Lindzen wrote in an op-ed in the June 26, 2006 Wall Street Journal.

Roy Spencer, principal research scientist for the University of Alabama in Huntsville, wrote an open letter to Gore criticizing his presentation of climate science in the film:

“...Temperature measurements in the arctic suggest that it was just as warm there in the 1930’s...before most greenhouse gas emissions. Don’t you ever wonder whether sea ice concentrations back then were low, too?” - Roy Spencer wrote in a May 25, 2006

Former University of Winnipeg climatology professor Dr. Tim Ball reacted to Gore’s claim that there has been a sharp drop-off in the thickness of the Arctic ice cap since 1970.

“The survey that Gore cites was a single transect across one part of the Arctic basin in the month of October during the 1960s when we were in the middle of the cooling period. The 1990 runs were done in the warmer month of September, using a wholly different technology,”
-Tim Ball said, according to the Canadian Free Press.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS RESPONSE: SENATE COMMITTEE MAJORITY PRESS RELEASE MIS-STATES FACTS ABOUT AP STORY

Linda Wagner, AP’s Director of Media Relations and Public Affairs

A statement from the Republican majority of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works has raised questions of bias and methodology in regards to a June 27 story by The Associated Press detailing scientists’ opinion of whether “The Inconvenient Truth,” former Vice President Al Gore’s documentary on global warming, is scientifically sound.

The press release contends “AP chose to ignore the scores of scientists who

have harshly criticized the science” in the documentary.

The AP’s methodology was simple, straightforward and clean: We contacted more than 100 of the nation’s top climate researchers, including those who have been vocal skeptics of climate change theory. But we quoted only climate scientists who had actually viewed the documentary or read the book upon which it was based. As we learned in the course of our reporting – and as our story noted – most scientists have not seen the movie or read the book. And those who had seen it or read it were generally positive toward Gore’s scientific presentation.

The Senate Committee Majority’s press release was headlined “AP INCORRECTLY CLAIMS SCIENTISTS PRAISE GORE’S MOVIE.” That headline is wrong: The story was completely accurate and met AP’s high standards in every way.

The AP story reported facts. It did not take a position in a debate, whether political or scientific, about global warming.

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INHOFE REACTS TO U.S. SUPREME COURT AGREEING TO HEAR CO2 CASE

Chairman Inhofe commented Monday on the announcement by the U.S. Supreme Court to agree to hear the case of whether the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must regulate carbon dioxide to fight global warming under the Clean Air Act.

“It is my hope that the U.S. Supreme Court will bring finality to this issue by rejecting this meritless lawsuit,” Senator Inhofe said.

“For the past 30 years, Congress has addressed and legislated extensively on the highly controversial and complex subject of global climate change. It has always been clear, however, that the Clean Air Act was intended to regulate pollution, not emissions of carbon dioxide.

“Unfortunately, those who have failed to impose their draconian ideology through legislation are now trying to use the courts to overturn the will of Congress.”

Senator Inhofe has been active in climate change litigation, having most recently filed an [amicus brief](#) earlier this year urging the dismissal of a nuisance lawsuit that was brought against American Electric Power Co., Southern Co., Xcel Energy Inc., Cinergy Corp. and Tennessee Valley Authority.

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Business & Media Institute

AP's '100 SCIENTISTS' SHOULD BE CALLED '19 GORE SUPPORTERS'

Article fails to acknowledge previous links between fans and Gore, calls movie's errors "tiny."

By Rachel Waters

June 29, 2006

A June 27 Associated Press article titled "[Scientists OK Gore's Movie for Accuracy](#)" might as well be titled "Gore Supporters Support Gore."

The AP claimed to "have contacted more than 100 top climate researchers" in the course of its investigation. But of 100 scientists contacted, only 19 had actually found the time to see the film "An Inconvenient Truth" or to read Gore's book.

Additionally, the AP claimed that some of those contacted "were vocal skeptics of climate change theory," but that was the last readers heard of any global warming skepticism.

The article, which ran in The Washington Post, USA Today, ABCnews.com and other publications, features quotes from several researchers with close ties to Gore.

William Schlesinger, a proponent of higher gasoline and energy prices who has appeared in a [previous report](#) by the Business & Media Institute, was quoted in the article. Since 1999 Schlesinger has given approximately \$3,500 to Democratic campaigns, including a \$1,000 contribution to Al Gore's presidential campaign in 1999. The AP failed to acknowledge any previous links between Schlesinger and Gore.

"The tiny errors scientists found weren't a big deal," wrote AP science writer Seth Borenstein.

Michael MacCracken, a contributor to Sen. John Kerry's (D-Mass.) presidential campaign, agreed that the errors were "far, far fewer and less significant than the shortcoming in speeches by the typical politician explaining an issue." The AP did link MacCracken to the Climate Institute in Washington, D.C., but failed to establish that the organization is pro-regulation and pro-Gore ([Gore is quoted in several places on its Web site](#)).

After glossing over the movie's inaccuracies, the article quoted researcher Tom Wigley, who felt the film was "too optimistic." It was not mentioned that Wigley is pro-Kyoto Protocol even though he believes that its standards will have a minimal effect on global warming. He last made the news in 2003 [when he disputed](#) Sen. James Inhofe's (R-Okla.) quotation of his work on the Senate floor. Though Wigley did not dispute the accuracy of Inhofe's words, he did

seem upset that his findings could be used as a supporting argument for the opposition.

Also quoted in the article was Robert Corell. [A June 27 majority press release](#) from the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee revealed that Corell has a personal relationship with Gore. The statement also says, "Corell's reported links as an 'affiliate' of a Washington, D.C.-based consulting firm that provides 'expert testimony' in trials and his reported sponsorship by the left-leaning Packard Foundation, were not disclosed by AP." More of Corell's background can be found at [JunkScience.com](#).

The article concluded with a quote from Jeff Severinghaus, a professor at the Scripps Institution. [In a 1992 article](#), the Cato Institute labeled the Scripps Institution home to one of "the earliest protagonists of global warming." Additionally, "An Inconvenient Truth" received [promotion](#) on its Web site.

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Washington Times Editorial

Breaking the 'hockey stick'

June 27, 2006

It's been a busy week for climate buffs and spin-meisters as the National Academy of Sciences released its eagerly awaited report on past climate change. Its origin is the scientific debate about the iconic "hockey stick," the graph published by Michael Mann and colleagues that showed a smooth decline in temperature since A.D. 1000 with a sudden warming in the 20th century, presumably caused by burning of fossil fuels to generate the energy needed by our advanced civilization. Since thermometers were not available, the earlier data came from "proxies": tree rings, ice cores, lake sediments, et cetera...

Global warming partisans, including some scientists and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the U.N. science panel, embraced the hockey stick as "evidence" for greenhouse warming. This, even though the hockey stick denied the existence of natural climate fluctuations: the well-established Medieval Warm Period around A.D. 1000, when Vikings grew crops in Greenland, and the Little Ice Age, from about A.D. 1400 to A.D. 1850, when summer harvests failed and rivers and lakes froze over during severe winters...

Chaired by universally respected Texas A&M professor Gerald North, the NAS panel has just released its diplomatically phrased report with all sides now claiming victory. The only firm conclusion is that it is warmer today than it was 400 years ago. The NAS panel might have stressed that A.D. 1600 is around the middle of the Little Ice Age. As Sen. James Inhofe, Oklahoma Republican and an outspoken opponent of warming scares, comments, it's like comparing summer to winter to show a catastrophic temperature trend.

But now the fun begins. CNN reports in anxious tones that the Earth has got a "fever" -- implying sickness. Really? Do we want a return to the severe climate

of the LIA? The New York Times reports "warmest in 1,000 years," but CNN and AP up this to 2,000 years.

In reality, the NAS report has re-established the LIA and MWP, and broken the hockey stick -- although it never says so explicitly: "None of the reconstructions indicates that temperatures were warmer during medieval times than during the past few decades." The report might have added that Northern Europe and Greenland were much warmer than today. But the statement "improving access to data on which published temperature reconstructions are based would boost confidence in the results" supports Mr. Barton and is a polite rebuke of Mr. Mann and coauthors for withholding data.

Altogether, a good report -- if you accept its straight language and reject extrapolations.

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The Wall Street Journal

There Is No 'Consensus' On Global Warming

By RICHARD S. LINDZEN

Mr. Lindzen is the Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Atmospheric Science at MIT.

June 26, 2006

According to Al Gore's new film "An Inconvenient Truth," we're in for "a planetary emergency": melting ice sheets, huge increases in sea levels, more and stronger hurricanes and invasions of tropical disease, among other cataclysms - - unless we change the way we live now...

Mr. Gore assures us that "the debate in the scientific community is over." That statement, which Mr. Gore made in an interview with George Stephanopoulos on ABC, ought to have been followed by an asterisk. What exactly is this debate that Mr. Gore is referring to? Is there really a scientific community that is debating all these issues and then somehow agreeing in unison? Far from such a thing being over, it has never been clear to me what this "debate" actually is in the first place.

The media rarely help, of course. When Newsweek featured global warming in a 1988 issue, it was claimed that all scientists agreed. Periodically thereafter it was revealed that although there had been lingering doubts beforehand, now all scientists did indeed agree. Even Mr. Gore qualified his statement on ABC only a few minutes after he made it, clarifying things in an important way. When Mr. Stephanopoulos confronted Mr. Gore with the fact that the best estimates of rising sea levels are far less dire than he suggests in his movie, Mr. Gore defended his claims by noting that scientists "don't have any models that give them a high level of confidence" one way or the other and went on to claim -- in his defense -- that scientists "don't know... They just don't know."

So, presumably, those scientists do not belong to the "consensus." Yet their research is forced, whether the evidence supports it or not, into Mr. Gore's preferred global-warming template -- namely, shrill alarmism. To believe it requires that one ignore the truly inconvenient facts. To take the issue of rising sea levels, these include: that the Arctic was as warm or warmer in 1940; that icebergs have been known since time immemorial; that the evidence so far suggests that the Greenland ice sheet is actually growing on average. A likely result of all this is increased pressure pushing ice off the coastal perimeter of that country, which is depicted so ominously in Mr. Gore's movie. In the absence of factual context, these images are perhaps dire or alarming.

They are less so otherwise. Alpine glaciers have been retreating since the early 19th century, and were advancing for several centuries before that. Since about 1970, many of the glaciers have stopped retreating and some are now advancing again. And, frankly, we don't know why...

A general characteristic of Mr. Gore's approach is to assiduously ignore the fact that the earth and its climate are dynamic; they are always changing even without any external forcing. To treat all change as something to fear is bad enough; to do so in order to exploit that fear is much worse. Regardless, these items are clearly not issues over which debate is ended -- at least not in terms of the actual science.

A clearer claim as to what debate has ended is provided by the environmental journalist Gregg Easterbrook. He concludes that the scientific community now agrees that significant warming is occurring, and that there is clear evidence of human influences on the climate system. This is still a most peculiar claim. At some level, it has never been widely contested. Most of the climate community has agreed since 1988 that global mean temperatures have increased on the order of one degree Fahrenheit over the past century, having risen significantly from about 1919 to 1940, decreased between 1940 and the early '70s, increased again until the '90s, and remaining essentially flat since 1998...

Given that we do not understand the natural internal variability of climate change, this task is currently impossible. Nevertheless there has been a persistent effort to suggest otherwise, and with surprising impact. Thus, although the conflicted state of the affair was accurately presented in the 1996 text of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the infamous "summary for policy makers" reported ambiguously that "The balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate." This sufficed as the smoking gun for Kyoto.

The next IPCC report again described the problems surrounding what has become known as the attribution issue: that is, to explain what mechanisms are responsible for observed changes in climate. Some deployed the lassitude argument -- e.g., we can't think of an alternative -- to support human attribution. But the "summary for policy makers" claimed in a manner largely unrelated to the actual text of the report that "In the light of new evidence and taking into account the remaining uncertainties, most of the observed warming over the last 50 years is likely to have been due to the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations."

In a similar vein, the National Academy of Sciences issued a brief (15-page) report responding to questions from the White House. It again enumerated the difficulties with attribution, but again the report was preceded by a front end that ambiguously claimed that "The changes observed over the last several decades are likely mostly due to human activities, but we cannot rule out that some significant part of these changes is also a reflection of natural variability." This was sufficient for CNN's Michelle Mitchell to presciently declare that the report represented a "unanimous decision that global warming is real, is getting worse and is due to man. There is no wiggle room." Well, no.

More recently, a study in the journal Science by the social scientist Nancy Oreskes claimed that a search of the ISI Web of Knowledge Database for the years 1993 to 2003 under the key words "global climate change" produced 928 articles, all of whose abstracts supported what she referred to as the consensus view. A British social scientist, Benny Peiser, checked her procedure and found that only 913 of the 928 articles had abstracts at all, and that only 13 of the remaining 913 explicitly endorsed the so-called consensus view. Several actually opposed it.

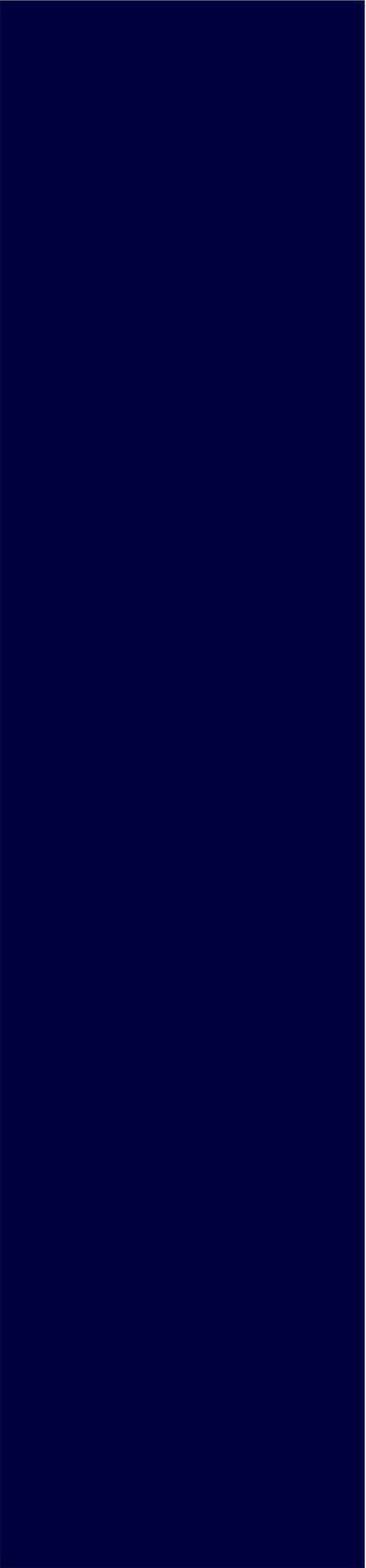
Even more recently, the Climate Change Science Program, the Bush administration's coordinating agency for global-warming research, declared it had found "clear evidence of human influences on the climate system." This, for Mr. Easterbrook, meant: "Case closed." What exactly was this evidence? The models imply that greenhouse warming should impact atmospheric temperatures more than surface temperatures, and yet satellite data showed no warming in the atmosphere since 1979. The report showed that selective corrections to the atmospheric data could lead to some warming, thus reducing the conflict between observations and models descriptions of what greenhouse warming should look like. That, to me, means the case is still very much open. So what, then, is one to make of this alleged debate? I would suggest at least three points.

First, nonscientists generally do not want to bother with understanding the science. Claims of consensus relieve policy types, environmental advocates and politicians of any need to do so. Such claims also serve to intimidate the public and even scientists -- especially those outside the area of climate dynamics. Secondly, given that the question of human attribution largely cannot be resolved, its use in promoting visions of disaster constitutes nothing so much as a bait-and-switch scam. That is an inauspicious beginning to what Mr. Gore claims is not a political issue but a "moral" crusade.

Lastly, there is a clear attempt to establish truth not by scientific methods but by perpetual repetition. An earlier attempt at this was accompanied by tragedy. Perhaps Marx was right. This time around we may have farce -- if we're lucky.

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Marc Morano, Communications Director
Matthew Dempsey, Press Secretary

