



March 3, 2009

Hot Air Report #2

Global Warming - Scientific Consensus?

- *“No one can seriously argue anymore that global warming isn’t happening and that human activity isn’t a significant part of the cause.”* (“It’s real. It’s here. It’s time to tackle this problem.” Editorial. Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel February 10, 2007).
- Additionally, Governor Doyle directed his Global Warming Task Force to accept *“the substantial scientific consensus that exists that climate change is occurring and human activity...is a major contributor to such change.”*

The United Nations created the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to evaluate the risk of climate change caused by human activity. In 2007, the IPCC published its Fourth Assessment Report, which stated that the Earth’s climates are warming and that this warming is very likely due to human greenhouse gas emissions. Many global warming advocates refer to this report when making claims of “substantial scientific consensus.”

Consensus, or lack thereof, on the global warming issue comes down to two key questions: Are the Earth’s climates warming, and, if so, what are the causes? Proponents of the Global Warming theory, such as Governor Doyle and the IPCC, would like us to think that all serious scientists believe that climate change is primarily caused by human use of fossil fuels, and if we don’t act immediately there will be dire consequences. In reality, significant disagreement exists within the scientific community and the number of scientists taking issue with the IPCC’s findings is increasing, especially lately.

A United States Senate Minority Report was released in 2007 listing over 400 prominent climatologists, meteorologists and other scientists from across the globe who were at odds with the IPCC’s findings and views of climate science. The report was written by Congressional staff for the United States Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. [Click Here](#) to read the full report, which includes background information on each scientist, quotes, writings and links to studies and source materials. The scientists hail from prestigious institutions such as: Harvard, Princeton, Columbia, Notre Dame, Stockholm, Helsinki, and Melbourne Universities, MIT, NASA, the U.S. Dept. of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the International Arctic Research Centre, and yes, even the IPCC itself, to name but a few.

Just one year later, in December 2008, the Minority Report was updated to include a total of 650 scientists. [Click Here](#) for the update. These scientists and their studies stand in stark contrast to the 2007 IPCC Summary findings – findings that are now being questioned. Dr. Philip Lloyd, a South African Nuclear Physicist and Chemical Engineer and former IPCC co-coordinating lead author, says that the IPCC Summary Findings are distorted, stating, “I have found examples of a Summary saying precisely the opposite of what the scientists said.”

The scientists in the Minority Reports have expressed varying degrees of skepticism, from taking issue with the theory that man is the cause of global warming to just plain disagreement that the Earth’s climates are even on a warming trend at this time. It is clear that the “substantial scientific consensus” Governor Doyle’s Global Warming Task Force was directed to assume is actually subject to substantial scientific debate - debate that is getting more interesting all the time. For Wisconsin to forge ahead with global warming legislation based on the prevailing “consensus” would be a very costly mistake.

More on the Global Warming Task Force and other related issues in future Hot Air Reports.

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