



August 27, 2009

**The Global Warming Task Force:
A Special Series of Hot Air Reports – Part 1**

“...the Task Force recognizes it cannot predict with certainty the degree of success that will be achieved by new cost-effective energy conservation and efficiency measures and the deployment of additional renewable resources...” (Governor Doyle’s Global Warming Task Force Final Report)

The Wisconsin State Legislature is set to reconvene in September. With the state budget now completed, I expect Governor Doyle and legislative Democrats to make a strong push to enact their global warming agenda. Senate and Assembly Democrats have said a global warming bill will be introduced this fall and will be modeled after the recommendations in Governor Doyle’s Global Warming Task Force Report. What sort of laws could we see in the near future?

Governor Doyle’s Global Warming Task Force Report is a 232 page report calling for state legislation to fight global warming. It is the Democrat’s blueprint for new global warming taxes and more regulations in our state. You may recall that I have discussed parts of the Task Force Report in previous Hot Air Reports. Beginning this week, however, I will be writing a comprehensive series of Hot Air Reports to fill you in on just what is included in this report.

First, the ultimate goal of the Task Force is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mainly carbon dioxide emissions that result from the use of fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, oil, etc.) in Wisconsin. The Task Force hopes to do this in three stages:

- By 2014, reduce Wisconsin’s emissions of greenhouse gases back to 2005 levels
- By 2022, reduce Wisconsin’s emissions to 22% below 2005 levels
- By 2050, reduce Wisconsin’s emissions to 75% below 2005 levels

Every policy recommendation in the Task Force Report is geared towards achieving these reductions. The Report includes approximately 50 recommendations, which encompass all areas of our lives, including energy production, food, transportation, agriculture, farming and even building codes.

So where did this idea come from? It came from Governor Doyle, who signed Executive Order 191 in April 2007. The Executive Order established the Task Force and required it to submit the Governor with a Final Report of policy recommendations for fighting global warming in Wisconsin.

In his Executive Order, the Governor stated that there is “broad scientific consensus on the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,” otherwise dire consequences could follow. Previous Hot Air Reports have shown ([click here](#)) that scientific consensus does not exist on the global warming issue.

Finally, this is a telling quote, straight from the Task Force’s Final Report,

“The Task Force was not asked by the Governor to debate the science of climate change. Executive Order 191 accepts the substantial scientific consensus that exists that climate change is occurring and human activity, particularly the burning of fossil fuels, is a major contributor to such change. The Task Force also was not asked to evaluate whether the costs of addressing climate change will be greater or less than the benefits achieved.”

This quote includes three significant ideas. First, the Task Force wasn’t asked to consider whether or not global warming is occurring; it took it as scientific fact. This is an unproven assumption, especially considering that global temperatures have been flat for the last decade. Second, the Task Force was asked to work under the assumption that humans are the primary cause of global warming. This is also an unproven assumption. Finally, it was not asked to consider a cost/benefit analysis of its recommendations.

In other words, the Governor doesn’t care how much fighting global warming will cost, he doesn’t care whether the benefits will outweigh the costs, and he doesn’t really know for sure whether man is causing global warming or if it is even occurring. This doesn’t bode well for the citizens and businesses of Wisconsin.

Stay tuned for more next week...

Access my reports online, at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm23/news/media.htm>.

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