

A Citizen's Plea

Spring 2008

My reason for writing this plea is both to ask for and to seek to change, where change may be possible, your opinion about what I and many other thinking individuals see as a misguided and dangerous current public obsession. By this I mean the proposition now accepted almost universally by the media, by huge numbers of leading national and international politicians, by increasing numbers of local government entities and even by quite a few senior people in the business world, that "climate change" is something new, that human activity is the leading factor in climate change and above all that the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere is the leading influence on climate. What can only be called the current demonisation of carbon as a "pollutant" has gone so far that I feel I can't remain a passive observer of all this any longer.

I have for some years now wondered why - when even the most basic education allows anyone who cares to consider the evidence to see that the world's climate has been undergoing periodic and often extreme change over hundreds, thousands and tens of thousands of years - the human race has suddenly begun to claim for itself the principal role in this matter. The focus on carbon and on CO₂ in particular, which is not merely non-polluting but an absolutely vital element of life on earth, seems wholly irrational. The wildly erroneous assumption that CO₂ is the principal greenhouse gas, or even that the "greenhouse effect" (which keeps us all alive) is somehow a "bad thing", is frightening. I recently became much more actively interested in this subject when even the established Church started to spread the frankly grotesque message that emitters of carbon dioxide are guilty of a "sin."

I soon discovered that the mantra being trumpeted from the roof tops and repeated and reflected countless times and in countless places every day in every corner of the media and by many leading politicians, including those in the UN, namely that there is an "overwhelming scientific consensus" on this matter, is completely - and frankly outrageously - untrue. Compared with the small number of scientists who have influenced the reports of the IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) there are much greater numbers of serious and relevantly qualified scientists who disagree strongly with many of its reported or perceived conclusions and even more strongly with the foolish and knee-jerk reaction of so many politicians.

May I ask you to take a very little of your time and both to read the few attachments to this letter and visit the handful of websites referred to in the attachments. I hope they will at least open your eyes to the possibility that the human race and the developed world in particular are embarking on some highly counter-productive policies based on exceedingly dubious evidence. Whether it's the recent letter from 100 scientists to the UN Secretary general (Attachment 1,) or Professor David Bellamy's robust comments in the body of the attachments, or the highly scientific "Pauline conversion" of NASA's Miklos Zagoni details of which you can find on the first recommended website, I believe you will find something to make you accept that the so-called "scientific consensus" is almost pure fiction and that the Nobel Committee lost its head when awarding a "peace prize" to a very misguided alarmist.

I personally believe that many political leaders have jumped on the "climate change/global warming" bandwagon as a way of diverting public attention away from their shameful failure to use the huge technical and financial capital of the developed world to tackle effectively the **real and current** problems affecting so much of the human race and resulting **every day** in severe suffering or death for tens of thousands of innocents : lack of clean water, easily preventable or treatable disease, tribal and regional warfare, extreme poverty, starvation, lack of education and perhaps above all over-population.

Let me in conclusion and for the avoidance of doubt as to my motives in writing this, make two things clear. First I believe that there are many excellent reasons for the world and particularly the developed world to strive to reduce its often grossly wasteful use of scarce resources and to seek to maximise energy efficiency in all human activity. Second I strongly support both public and private measures to minimise genuine pollution (e.g. emissions of oxides of sulphur and nitrogen into the air, or pollution of oceans, lakes and rivers by industrial waste such as chemicals, oil and plastics) resulting from human activity. I did so throughout my working life in the mining industry. To anyone whose reaction to my mention of mining is "Well he **would** be on the side of the polluters, wouldn't he?" I would say just ask my erstwhile colleagues in BHP Minerals, who will confirm if asked that I was generally regarded by others in senior management as a bit of a "loony leftie greenie."

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you,

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Attachments:

Letter from 100 scientists to UN Secretary General - www.middlebury.net/op-ed/un-signatories.html

List of recommended websites - www.ilovemycarbon dioxide.com/pdf/Recommended_Websites.pdf

"Warm, watered and ..." - <http://carbon-sense.com/2007/09/25/warm-watered-and-well-fed-is-better/#more-30>

Analyzing Global Warming Science - http://thenewamerican.com/node/7009#SlideFrame_1

"Old King Coal ..." - http://carbon-sense.com/wp-content/uploads/2007/11/david_bellamy_statement.pdf