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Climate Issues

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Few doubt that energy has improved lives and enabled human progress. Yet one of the biggest challenges facing the world is the polarized debate over the future of energy. Facts and economics are too often replaced with assertions and emotions. Discussions about fossil fuels and alternative energy sources often degenerate into a battle to delegitimize the other side. This is a recipe for inaction. And it keeps billions of people trapped in energy poverty. Almost 40% of humanity, or three billion people, have access to only rudimentary forms of energy and a very low standard living. The world expects and deserves better.

As we begin 2021, it is interesting to look back at some of the most ridiculous predictions from some “chicken little” climate scientists/activists. Modern doomsayers have been predicting climate and environmental disaster since the 1960s. They continue to do so today. None of the apocalyptic predictions as of today have come true. Yet, we continue to see wild predictions from notable people in government and science. The makers of failed apocalyptic predictions are individuals holding respected positions in government and science. While such predictions have been and continue to be enthusiastically reported by media eager for sensational headlines, the failures are typically not revisited.

In 1996, Paul Ehrlich said: *“If I were a gambler, I would take even money that England will not exist in the year 2000.”* Dr. Ehrlich has been predicting climate disaster since the 1960s. As you can see in this 1969 article, Dr. Ehrlich predicted humankind had 20 years to take drastic action to head off what he foresaw as a climate disaster.

THE NEW YORK TIMES
SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 1969

FOE OF POLLUTION SEES LACK OF TIME

**Asserts Environmental Ills
Outrun Public Concern**

By ROBERT REINHOLD
Special to The New York Times

PALO ALTO, Calif., Aug. 5 —
"The trouble with almost all environmental problems," says Paul R. Ehrlich, the population biologist, "is that by the time we have enough evidence to convince people, you're dead."

While Dr. Ehrlich is gathering that evidence in his laboratory at Stanford University, he is wasting no time trying to convince people that drastic action is needed to head off what he foresees as a catastrophic explosion fueled by runaway population growth, a limited world food supply, and contamination of the planet by man.

"We must realize that unless we are extremely lucky, everybody will disappear in a cloud of blue steam in 20 years," the 37-year-old scientist said during a coffee break at his laboratory. "The situation is going to get continuously worse unless we change our behavior."

A senior United Nations (U.N.) environmental official was quoted in an Associated Press climate report on June 29, **1989** saying entire nations could be wiped off the face of the earth by rising sea levels if the global warming trend is not reversed by the year **2000**. Coastal flooding and crop failures would create an exodus of 'eco-refugees,' threatening political chaos, said Noel Brown, director of the New York Office of the U.N. Environmental Program (UNEP). He said governments have a 10-year window of opportunity to solve the greenhouse effect before it goes beyond human control.

In September 2019, the head of the world's foremost weather science organization issued a surprise rebuke to climate alarmists marking what may be one of the most significant developments in the climate debate in decades. Petteri Taalas, the secretary-general of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), told the *Talouselama* magazine in Finland that he disagrees with doomsday climate extremists who call for radical action to prevent a purported apocalypse. Taalas's remarks are significant because he heads the WMO. The WMO is one of the two organizations that founded the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988. Since being formed, the IPCC has become the leading institution worldwide to promote the theory that human activity contributes to global warming.

More recently we see ramblings from 16-year old climate expert, Greta Thunberg who would have you believe mankind is only a few 'impossible burgers' away from global calamity. Every child in the wealthy world should be taught to be grateful to the previous generations that have gifted them with unprecedented capabilities to flourish in this world.

In the name of science, several doom-and-gloom predictions about the climate impacts of business-as-usual have been made in an attempt to shock humanity into immediate legislative and regulatory action and lifestyle changes. It has not worked. Worsening their predicament, the perpetrators continue with their predictions. From their perspective, they remain the smartest guys in the room.

The executive director of the Center for Biological Diversity, an environmental activist group, recently said: "The core talent of a successful environmental activist is not science or law. It's campaigning instinct." He went on to say: "I'm more interested in hiring philosophers, linguists, and poets." He described environmental activist strategies as all about taking "a terrible toll on agency morale" until environmental regulators "feel like their careers are being mocked and destroyed" and "become much more willing to play by our rules. Psychological warfare is a much underappreciated aspect of environmental campaigning."

When political or moral ideologies are insulated from critique, they become dogmas. They become belief systems that are cleaved to, not because they have been tested and discussed in the public sphere, but because their adherents just know that they are right. These are the perfect conditions in which arrogance and intellectual hollowness can flourish, and in which defensiveness and fury become the default responses to any challenge from outside. That is what has happened to environmentalism.

For some, "climate change" has become the proxy for all things scary from severe weather events to rising tides, mass migration, and agricultural failure. Their climate conversation is fueled by outrage, which being fed by fear. It's time we give ourselves a break, because we've been lied to. We have been manipulated by the supposed protectors of the

planet. Most of us are good people and want to be environmentally friendly. Unfortunately, it's that kindhearted nature that makes a soft target for eco-propagandists.

A 2019 report from the Global Energy Institute found that anti-energy activists have prevented at least **\$91.9 billion** in domestic economic activity and eliminated nearly **730,000** job opportunities. In addition, state/local governments have missed out on more than **\$20 billion** in tax revenue.

We have had enough hysteria over important environmental issues thanks to philosophers, linguists, and poets. We need to deal with the facts and the science.

Climate Change Reports

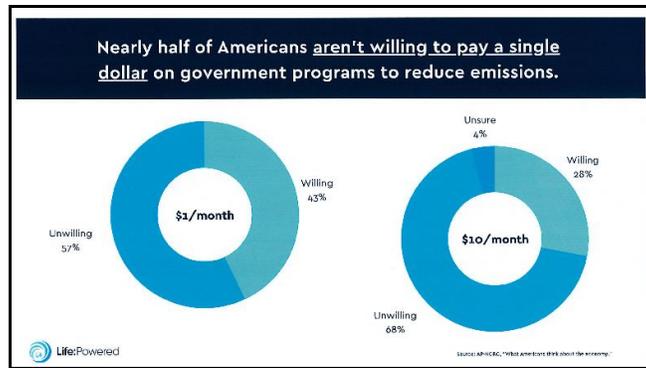
The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) releases a climate change report every year. The IPCC's models emphasize the need for people to change their lifestyle and consumption patterns to more sustainable alternatives, specifically in areas they can control, like modes of transportation, the buildings they inhabit and their dietary preferences.

While the 133 report authors are undoubtedly well accomplished in their scientific fields, they fail to understand the unintended consequences and high taxpayer and consumer costs that come with climate action. They want to drastically cut carbon emissions worldwide to limit global warming by 1.5 degrees over the next few decades. In order to meet the 1.5 degree goal, the IPCC envisions a future where people travel less using buses, trains, hybrid and electric cars. And in order to overhaul agricultural and land-use practices, the IPCC suggest eating less meat. Going all in to limit warming to a degree and a half would mean bilking the poor around the world while increasing other environmental harms.

COP25 Climate Talks – The UN completed the COP25 climate talks in December 2019 in Madrid, Spain. The COP26 climate talks were postponed to November 2021 and will be held in Glasgow, UK. During the COP25 climate talks none of the largest emitting countries managed



to agree on even non-binding greenhouse gas reduction commitments. The delegates at the talks faced the realization that whatever they agreed to had little relevance to developments in the world. Citizens around the world don't see climate change as a threat demanding personal sacrifices. Green policies saddle the poor with higher living costs. Citizens around the world continue to reject climate policies that cost them personally, either by direct taxation or by undermining the competitiveness of their own economies.



Climate Plans

President Obama unveiled his vast anticarbon energy agenda in June 2013. The goal of the plan was said to be to reduce carbon emissions in the U.S. to control global climate change. However, data indicates that U.S. carbon emissions have been declining since 2007. According to the latest EPA data, oil and gas methane emissions dropped by 14% from 1990-2017. The EPA also found that methane emissions from hydraulic fracturing fell 81% from 2012-2014.

Methane (CH₄) is a more potent greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide (CO₂), though CH₄ is far less prevalent than CO₂ and has a much shorter atmospheric life. The real reason methane has become an obsession of environmental activist groups is that it sometimes leaks in nominal amounts when extracting or transporting oil and especially natural gas. Thus methane can be a pretext for interfering with and raising the costs of drilling. But this means willfully ignoring the plunge in U.S. methane emissions. Methane emissions from oil and gas operations declined by 14% from 1990-2017. According to the EPA, oil and gas methane emissions account for only 1.22% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

These facts and studies are welcome news for those interested in protecting the environment. The activist fear-mongering about emissions have been exposed as fraudulent by the most comprehensive research on the subject to date. We often hear professional environmental organizations cite studies from researcher/activists from Cornell University or Duke University and others. But these are stale arguments that have been debunked by numerous university, research groups, federal government agencies, and more.

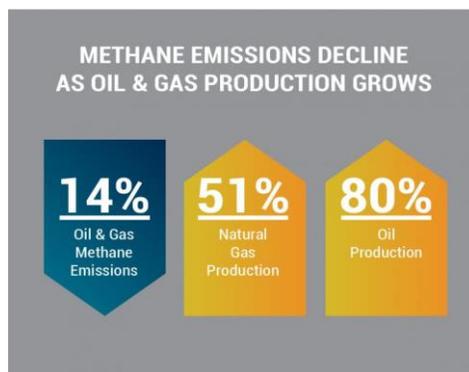
The fact remains that because American industry is greatly improving its environmental practices and is proactively addressing the big problems, the only way the Obama Administration EPA was able to stay relevant was to find little problems and inflate them into issues of tremendous importance. Combine with a poorly understood concept of risk, a technically ignorant mainstream media, and a public that has been conditioned to equate the word "chemical" with "deadly poison" and you have the conditions that sounds like it will require the services of a public relations firm rather than a team of scientists. The environmental movement has been comfortable working in this manner for decades.

Obama's climate action plan was imposed by executive order. Crucial to pulling off this plan was a decision the administration made to change the way it accounts for carbon emissions, significantly raising what it calls the "social cost of carbon". This change tilted rulemaking against products and industries that use carbon energy.

Social Cost of Carbon - The concept of the "social cost of carbon" is not objective or scientific. It is based on subjective human decisions on what to include in the model, the discount rate to apply to future costs and benefits, and how to deal with uncertainty. This model keeps pushing carbon-cost estimates up. A larger value for the "social cost of carbon" basically means that efficiency standard or air pollution regulation that reduces carbon dioxide emissions will have higher benefits assigned to it. That makes it easier for stricter standards to pass a cost/benefit analysis. Under President Obama, federal agencies apparently were permitted to pick and choose what perspective to take and which benefits and costs to count. As a result, federal agencies engaged in cherry-picking whereby agencies count global effects that are favorable to the Obama Administration's agenda and ignore global impacts that put the Obama administration's concerns in an unfavorable light.

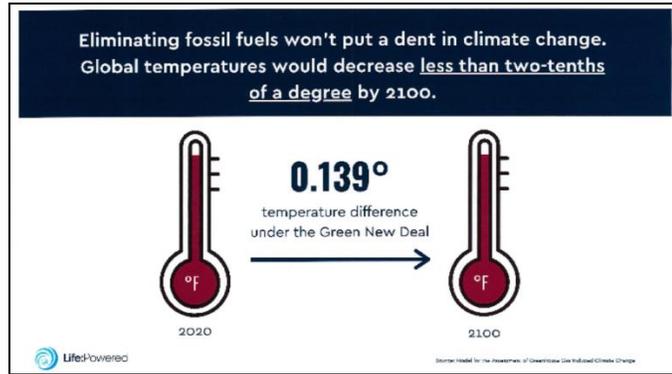
Where are we at today? – America is a world leader in clean air and water, and we've made unprecedented progress while our population, economy, and energy consumption has grown. Emissions of the six "criteria pollutants" monitored by the EPA are down 77% since 1970. Over the same period U.S. GDP has increased 285%, vehicle miles traveled have increased 195%, population has increased 60%, and energy use has increased 48%.

The Trump administration and Congress worked to reset the harmful energy policies of the last administration. Greenhouse gas emissions continue to plummet, according to the latest EPA data. The EPA found that greenhouse gas emissions, mostly carbon dioxide, fell 2.7% from 2017 to 2018. This downward trend is occurring even as U.S. oil and gas production grows dramatically. The EPA found that oil and gas methane emissions dropped by 14% from 1990-2017 while oil and natural gas production increased by 80% and 51% respectively.



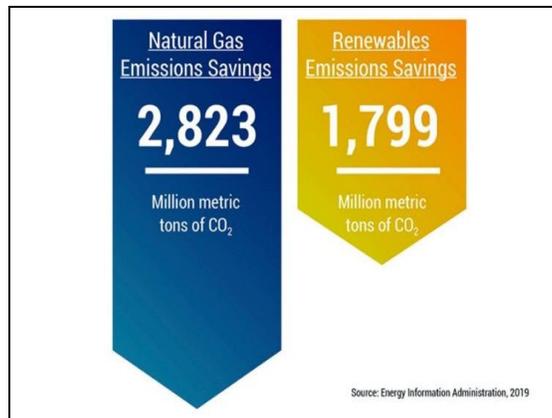
Source: U.S. EPA, U.S. EIA 1990-2017

The EPA also found that methane emissions from hydraulic fracturing fell 81% between 2012-2014. Studies show that the proposed Obama EPA methane rules would only reduce global warming by 4 one-thousandths of one degree (0.004) by the year 2100. Even more recent studies (2020) show that eliminating fossil fuels entirely would only reduce global warming by less than two-tenths of a degree by 2100.



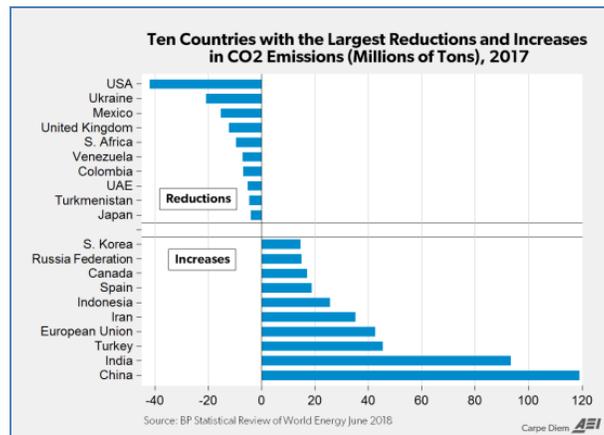
The fact is our nation's 21st century oil and gas renaissance has made domestically produced oil and gas economical and abundant. This market-driven success has helped our nation to achieve significant emission reductions. The U.S. emitted 23% fewer energy-related carbon emissions in 2015 than 2005. The oil and gas industry played a significant role in reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by over 20% over the last decade.

The latest Energy Information Administration (EIA) data (2019) show natural gas is responsible for 2.8 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide emission reductions since 2005. That represents 61% of overall power sector reductions during that time-frame and 57% more than reductions attributable to renewables.



In the latest report from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), U.S. carbon emissions are the lowest they have been in nearly seven decades. Even more interesting is the fact that U.S. carbon emissions dropped while emissions from energy consumption for the rest of world increased by 1.6%. The U.S. emitted 15.6 metric tons of CO₂ per person in 1950. After

rising for decades, it has declined in recent years to 15.8 metric tons per person in 2017, the lowest measured levels in 67 years. European emissions rose 2.5% and Chinese emissions rose 1.6% along with Hong Kong's 7% surge. Go look at the countries that are still in the Paris agreement and see where their CO₂ emissions are. It's one thing to sign a document; it's another thing to actually change your behavior. **America leads the world in environmental quality.**



A recent research report released last year showed that deaths related to air pollution exposure in the U.S. decreased by about 47% from 1990 to 2010. These improvements in air quality and public health in the U.S took place despite increases in population, energy and electricity use, and vehicle miles traveled. **People are 98.9% less likely to die from a climate-related natural disaster today than a century ago.**

Also, the findings of a recent environmental study published in the journal *Environmental Hazards* reinforces previous findings that when economic growth is taken into account, disasters like hurricanes and wildfires are less costly to society than in the past. The study found that the cost of disasters has actually fallen as a percentage of economic output since 1990.

While many are concerned about climate change, it is essential to balance the statistical uncertainty that the IPCC admits in its report with the well-tested and known dangers of forcing flawed government programs on a growing economy. The best path forward in addressing both the economic prosperity and environmental preservation is to remove government barriers to competition in the energy sector and beyond.

The Trump administration and the EPA worked hard to bring science, fact, and due process back into oil field regulations. However, virtually every action the EPA took was met with ferocious opposition from anti-oil activists. Today, the EPA continues to work through the challenges to bring some common sense back to the federal regulatory framework.



President Biden released his energy and environment plan which reflected much of the Green New Deal (GND) introduced in 2019 by U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and includes an enormously damaging and historically large tax increase. The plan calls for setting a 100% clean-electricity standard by 2035 and investing \$2 trillion over four years on clean energy. Members of both parties have called the idea unrealistic. The philosophies and ideas behind this textbook socialism are not just foolish. They're dangerous. Biden's plan is out-of-touch with working people and the economy.

This is not the first time Biden has advanced an anti-energy agenda under the guise of climate change. Biden is promising to repeat the Obama-Biden legacy of failed green jobs, but this time he intends to spend more taxpayer money on what will likely be another failed enterprise. Biden plans to spend \$2 trillion that could be better used to assist the economy in its recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

Facts debunk GND ideas. Many scientists, policymakers from both parties, and common sense have discredited the dingbat ideas proposed in the GND. Climate science conventional wisdom is flawed, relies on alarmist scenarios, and exaggerates economic impacts. The GND will fail for many reasons. One is that the people pushing it seem oblivious to the needs of low-income families, who would be directly hurt by the plan.

The whole idea behind the GND is to take fossil fuels away from the people. And the bureaucrats are nowhere near having a replacement for fossil fuels, nor will they ever be until they embrace nuclear energy. Sooner or later, the people will figure this out. The GND is not something America can remotely afford to implement.

Inexpensive energy is necessary for economic advancement by the world's poor and for recovery from the staggering economic effects of COVID-19. Ideological opposition to fossil fuels is an anti-human stance that views ordinary people not as problem-solving sources of ingenuity but as only mouths to feed, producing environmental damage.

Americans who have observed stay-at-home orders or quarantined themselves at home this year need to look around and think about what their lives would be like if they no longer had ample and affordable power, or natural gas to use to cook their meals. Because, make no mistake about it, that is what Biden is really proposing.

The choices policymakers make in 2021 and beyond will determine whether we build on America's energy progress or shift to foreign energy sources with lower environmental standards. You can't address the risks of climate change without America's oil and natural gas industry, which continues to lead the world in emissions reductions while delivering affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy to all American.

Methane Emissions



In a move touted by the EPA as significantly reducing the regulatory and cost burden to U.S. oil and gas operators, the EPA released in August 2020 two final rules that completed the Trump Administration's efforts to roll back the Obama-era methane regulations. The finalized version of the two rules make it simpler and less costly for oil and gas producers to comply with the Clean Air Act *New Source Performance Standards* (NSPS). The two parts of the rulemaking are (1) a policy package, and (2) a set of technical amendments.

The finalized revision will allow a wellsite to be excluded from the burdensome fugitive emissions program when the wellsite falls below 15 barrels/day or 90 mcf/d. While this change will have little effect on the large hydraulically fractured shale wells that have 15 to 20 wells on the site, it will lift an unreasonable burden from the small business wellsites where there are only one or two wells per site.

One of KIOGA's top federal priorities was EPA's ongoing efforts to rewrite methane emission regulations released by the Obama administration in 2016. KIOGA long argued that the basis for the implementation of the rules in the Obama administration was improper, as the EPA made none of the required statutory findings before doing so. KIOGA also successfully pushed for an exclusion for low-volume wells in the new rule and those provisions made the final cut as well.

DC Court Issues Stay of New EPA methane Emissions Rule – In September 2020, the EPA published the policy rule and technical rule for 'Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources' – often referred to as the EPA's changes to the agency's methane rules for oil and natural gas. Environmental groups and a coalition of 20 states and four municipalities, led by California, sued the EPA arguing that the rules violate the Clean Air Act and that the agency must reinstate methane emissions standards issued by the Obama administration. A group of environmentalists also sought a stay of the policy and a summary judgment to vacate it. The appeals court issued a temporary stay on the policy rule on September 17th requiring responses from EPA and others.

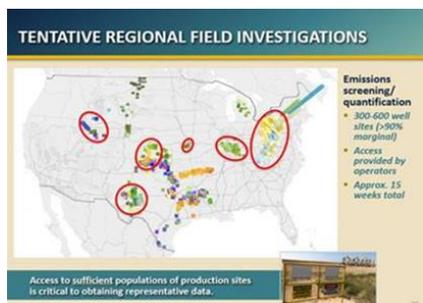
Background - EPA's August 2020 ruling to change the regulated emission from methane to volatile organic compounds is entirely appropriate. It corrects what was a political policy decision instead of a technical one. It prevents the use of the federal regulatory process from shutting down hundreds of thousands of small business, low production oil and natural gas wells without information to support such an action. For oil and natural gas production operations, VOC and methane are emitted together and the equipment that manages one also manages the other.

EPA's decision to regulate methane in 2016 was a political decision driven by environmental activists and lobbying groups like the Environmental Defense Fund. These groups demanded methane regulation for a single purpose — to use a little utilized provision of the Clean Air Act (Section 111(d)) to regulate low production existing wells out of business.

Because 111(d) uses new source Best Systems of Emissions Reductions technology for existing sources instead of Reasonably Available Control Technology like other sections of the Act, these groups saw 111(d) as a pathway to require the cost ineffective Subpart OOOOa fugitive emissions requirements to push low production wells to shut down.

KIOGA submitted comments to EPA in November 2019 supporting the EPA's proposal to change the regulated emission for oil and gas from methane back to VOC. KIOGA also joined legal comments submitted in November 2019 by our industry methane litigation coalition. KIOGA's comments complemented the legal intensive comments with technical support and cost of compliance information. KIOGA's submitted comments also gave KIOGA standing and build a solid position for reinstating a low production well exemption.

Going Forward – KIOGA has standing in the methane case before the Appeals Court and will be submitting comments in support of the EPA's actions and to counter the hyperbolic characterizations of these regulatory changes from environmental activist groups and



Democrat Attorney Generals. In addition, the Kansas oil and gas industry joined industry groups from other states (MI, KS, IN, IL, WV, KY) for a U.S. Department of Energy study of methane emissions and volatile organic compounds (VOC) from marginal wells and production site tank facilities. Field measurements are necessary to counter the argument presented by environmental groups that marginal wells are

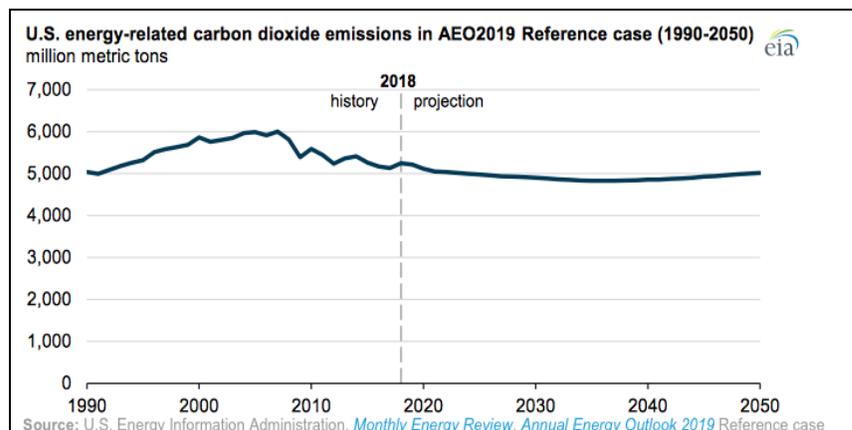
super emitters. The USDOE took field measurements in Kansas in December 2019. Preliminary results from field measurements of VOC's and methane emissions from marginal wells and tank facility sites in KS, WV, KY, IN found no quantifiable or measurable emissions from wells or tank facilities.

Additional DOE funding has been secured and plans are advancing to conduct a second field campaign, originally scheduled to begin in April 2020 in the Permian in Texas and Anadarko basin (including western Kansas). However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the second field campaign was postponed to early 2021. A final USDOE report is expected by the end of 2021.

What about climate change?

Although global temperature has risen about one degree Celsius since the start of the industrial revolution, this has not wholly been caused by industrial warming gasses linked to the economic growth that has increased the world's wealth, health, and life expectancy so dramatically. Atmospheric physicists on both sides of the debate over potential climate catastrophe agree that the first half of the rise, before 1945, was largely caused by natural sources like long-term cycles or solar fluctuations. At that point, emissions were too low to have much of an impact. The substantial feedback warming that many climate models have predicted from fossil-fueled heat in the form of increased humidity and hence water vapor, the primary natural warming gas, has not yet been observed.

Emission Facts - Carbon dioxide emissions from U.S. energy consumption will remain near current levels through 2050, according to projections in the Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Annual Energy Outlook 2019 (AEO 2019). The AEO 2019 projects that U.S. energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions will be 5,019 million metric tons in 2050, 4% below their 2018 value.



Using the temperature assumptions put out by the IPCC and the Green New Deal, if the U.S. eliminated all CO₂ emissions immediately, it would avert 0.07 degrees of global warming by 2050 and 0.2 degrees by 2100. If Kansas alone eliminated all CO₂ emissions immediately, it would avert 0.001 degrees of global warming by 2050 and 0.0023 degrees by 2100. How many lost jobs is that worth?

Climatology is mostly guesswork. There is no way to conduct a controlled experiment to ascertain scientific validity. Climatologists have learned a lot about climate and weather in the past century, but actually controlling the climate is something else entirely.

Climate science conventional wisdom is flawed, relies on alarmist scenarios, and exaggerates economic impacts.

In a lecture in 2018, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) meteorologist Richard Lindzen said the oceans and the air in the atmosphere are in constant reaction with each other and the land, causing what we experience as storms and temperature changes. Variation in the sun's radiation and the rotation of the planet plays parts as well. And yet, he said, climate modelers claim that only one tiny component of this enormous churning mass, CO₂, controls the planet's climate.

The *Times London* reported in May 2017 that:

"There is little doubt that the damage being done by climate-change policies currently exceed the damage being done by climate change, and will for several decades yet. Hunger, rainforest destruction, excess cold weather deaths, and reduced economic growth are all exacerbated by the rush to biomass and wind. These dwarf any possible effects of worse weather, for which there is still no actual evidence anyway."

Recent research from the University of Waterloo published in the *International Journal of Modern Physics B* in May said 'Conventional thinking says that the emission of human-made non-CFC gases such as carbon dioxide has mainly contributed to global warming. But we have observed data going back to the Industrial Revolution that convincingly shows that conventional understanding is wrong,' said Quing-Bin Lu, a professor of physics and astronomy, biology, and chemistry in Waterloo's Faculty of Science. 'In fact, the data shows that CFCs conspiring with cosmic rays caused both the polar ozone hole and global warming.'

Proponents of man-made global warming are being challenged more and more by scientists who don't buy into the climate catastrophe scare. The arguments used to dismiss the challengers range from calling the non-believers names to attempting to marginalize the challengers by citing the various branches of government and scientific organizations that have issued proclamations about their belief in man-made global warming.

Many proponents of man-made climate change call scientists and others who challenge their view "deniers". But what is a denier? A denier denies certainty on a complex and still young scientific subject. A denier questions assumptions about the near irrelevance of solar, oceanic, and other anthropogenic influences on temperature. A denier prefers evidence to model projections and tests alarming predictions against actual observations. A denier is a genuine seeker of scientific truth.

Large institutions such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) the National Science Foundation (NSF) the National Academy of Science (NAS) the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) along with many other government and academic institutions and societies have all issued statements touting their commitment to the man-made global warming theory.

All of these organizations have stated that man-made global warming is real and is caused by burning fossil fuels. Based on their unanimity we are supposed to believe they are correct. By quoting the statements from these well known organizations we are supposed to believe that because they are large and well-funded they are therefore exempt from making mistakes. Of course this is not true. As an example, in 2006 NASA predicted sunspot cycle 24 would be the strongest in 300 years. The reality is that it will be the weakest in 100 years. They could not have been more wrong. Computer models from the 1990s predicted that global average surface temperature would continue to increase after the year 2000. They were wrong. There has been no measured temperature increase since 1998. Actually, large institutions may be more likely to be wrong more often than individuals. Large institutions have giant budgets that must be fed making them vulnerable to political agendas. They have enormous institutional inertia that makes it very hard for them to change direction. Individuals can change direction on a dime if new evidence indicates the old way of thinking was wrong.

The bottom line is that using declarative statements from large organizations, that have a vested interest in maintaining their massive funding from the federal government to study man-made climate change, have no real meaning.

Global surface temperatures measured by thermometers are flawed. Recording stations come online and offline at random. The time of day when the high and low temperatures for the previous 24 hours are recorded varies, often changing at the same station. This has a demonstrable biasing effect on high or low readings. Local conditions can further bias temperatures. What is the effect of a free-standing tree 100 feet away from a station? And the 'urban heat island' can artificially warm readings from population centers with as few as 2,500 residents. Neighboring reporting stations can diverge significantly from each other for no known reason.

Many Scientists Challenge Political Activist Claims that Humans Cause Most of the Increase in Greenhouse Gases - Not all scientists are panicking about global warming. A top climate scientist from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) lambasted the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report that blamed mankind as the main cause of global warming and whitewashed the fact that there has been a hiatus in warming for the last 15 years. "I think that the latest IPCC report has truly sunk to the level of hilarious incoherence," said Dr. Richard Lindzen. "They are proclaiming increased confidence in their models as the discrepancies between their models and observations increase."

When the failure of its predictions become clear, climate activists always come back with new models that soften their previous warming forecasts. After these changes, the models tend to agree better with the actual numbers, but the forecasts for future temperatures have continued to be too warm. The modelers insist that they are unlucky because natural

temperature variability is masking the real warming. However, when a batter goes 0 for 10, he or she is better off questioning their swing than blaming the umpire. The models mostly missed warming in the deep atmosphere, from the earth's surface to 75,000 feet, which is supposed to be one of the real signals of warming caused by CO₂. Here, the consensus ignores the reality of temperature observations of the deep atmosphere collected by satellites and balloons, which have continually shown less than half of the warming shown in the average model forecasts.

The extent of human's influence on climate change is not "settled science". Only 0.3% of 12,000 papers published in learned journals claimed that recent warming was manmade. The scientific community's peer-reviewed results overwhelmingly fail to endorse the narrow view that recent warming was predominantly manmade. Several scientists have stated that activists advocating man-made global warming are reflecting not scientific truth but "quasi-religious dogma and totalitarian error."

Scrutiny of man-made climate change arguments reveal why they are failing. Nature is showing us that CO₂ concentrations are not ruling global temperature. Since 1998 twenty eight percent (28%) of all CO₂ emissions released into the atmosphere since 1850 have occurred yet there has been no warming. World-wide hurricanes are not increasing in number or strength. Over the last year, the U.S. had the fewest number of tornadoes since modern record keeping began. Polar Bear populations are at record highs. Computer model temperature predictions are much too warm and the difference between them and measured temperature is increasing each year. Man-made climate change arguments are failing because they are wrong.

What about the Trade-offs? – Climate alarmists rarely consider trade-offs that arise from their solutions. Electric cars are a good example. The manufacture and disposal of car batteries is not exactly eco-friendly. It might make WOKE Californians feel better to pretend that buying a \$185,000 electric car can help reduce the average yearly temperature of the world. Yet California has only five hundredths of one percent of the world population. No matter how large California's share of new electric car sales becomes, the overwhelming bulk of all light vehicles in the U.S and the world through 2040 will not be electric.

Apart from blighting the landscape, windmill blades kill birds and insects that pollinate fruit-bearing trees. Furthermore, as wind and solar grow their share of electricity production; many more connections to the electricity grid are occurring. These connections are using the most powerful greenhouse gas known to humanity – Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆). Cheap and non-flammable, SF₆ is a colorless, odorless, synthetic gas used to insulate electrical installations and is widely used across the renewable energy industry. SF₆ is 23,500 times more warming than CO₂. Just one kilogram of SF₆ warms the earth the same amount as 24 people flying roundtrip from New York to London. It also persists in the atmosphere for a long time, warming the earth for at least 1,000 years. SF₆ is within wind turbines specifically.

Powering the entire nation on wind and solar would require 42 million acres of land. Such a massive land clearing effort would mean renewable energy isn't as environmentally friendly as it sounds and would require significant eminent domain seizure.

Going vegan may be good for bovines (and possibly humans as well), but it would require chopping down forests to make room for millions of acres of croplands, and no synthetic fertilizer. What are the effects on welfare when massive subsidies for solar power raise electricity prices, which weigh more heavily on the poor?

The California electric blackouts in 2019 were a result of political failure to hold PG&E accountable after the \$21 billion bail-out. The failure stemmed from decades-long focus on climate/renewables instead of fortifying electric grid.

Energy Policy

The U.S. currently has a better, more sensible approach to energy development than any other country in the world, both for the short-term and long-term. Where government policy has been absent, free markets have filled the void with great success. By focusing on more efficient use of energy, it is possible to lower emissions without imposing a carbon tax or even more environmental restrictions. An American energy policy that values innovation over regulation can turn energy policy challenges into great opportunities for economic growth and energy security.

America's newfound status as a global energy superpower has created economic opportunities and a cleaner environment here at home as well as stability around the world. The oil and gas industry is leading the way in technology developments and innovative solutions to find new and better ways to produce and use energy. In order to harness our abundant natural resources and spur innovation, we need elected officials who support forward-looking policies. Pro-energy elected officials will ensure the oil and gas industry has the opportunity to improve all Americans' access to abundant, affordable energy and to provide hundreds of thousands of new high-paying jobs across the nation.

What is the best energy policy going forward? - Debate continues across the country on our nation's energy future. What is our best energy policy going forward?

Even during periods when much of the world suffers economic stagnation, most of us would agree that we still have a very high standard of living. Compared to previous generations, we are wealthier, healthier, have better technology, more mobility, and many more opportunities for a better life.

Several factors contribute to a higher standard of living, but one of the most important is access to reliable and inexpensive energy. Affordable energy is essential for almost every aspect of our modern lives. Affordable energy is needed to run the hospitals and laboratories that improve our health. Affordable energy is required to deliver electricity to our homes and put fuel in our vehicles. And it supports the millions of jobs associated with all of these things.

Concerns About Carbon - In general, the most affordable forms of energy come from fossil fuels, such as oil, natural gas, and coal. Compared to these energy sources, alternative fuels such as solar and wind power are considerably more expensive and less reliable.

Burning fossil fuels to generate electricity or provide power necessarily releases carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a gas we exhale every time we breathe. Erupting volcanoes, decaying trees, wildfires, and the animals on which we rely for food all emit CO₂. This by-product, which is essential for plant life and an unavoidable aspect of human life, is at the center of today's climate change controversies.

There is vigorous debate about what effects carbon emissions may or may not have on our future climate. Recent studies suggest that future warming is likely to be substantially lower than computer model-simulated projections on which many climate scientists rely. Using the temperature assumptions outlined by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Green New Deal, eliminating all CO₂ emissions in the U.S. immediately would only reduce global temperatures a negligible 0.07 degrees by 2050 and 0.2 degrees by 2100. But the damage to our economy and the well-being of American families would be enormous.

Those who believe that increased CO₂ emissions inevitably lead to global warming believe this change is directly attributable to the widespread use of fossil fuels. Because they believe further warming will have catastrophic effects, they have waged a war on carbon for many years. They advocate restricting carbon-based fuels in favor of subsidized alternative energy and encourage policymakers to make fossil fuels more expensive in hopes of discouraging their use.

Beware of Crocodile Tears - All too often state and federal proposals to tax carbon directly or launch new carbon tax schemes have much more to do with raising revenue than helping our environment. For those who prefer higher taxation to spending cuts, having an entirely new source of revenue is appealing. However, taxing carbon only takes more resources from the private sector to support swelling state and federal government.

A recent study analyzed probable effects of a U.S. carbon tax that starts at \$20 per ton and then rises 4% per year, which is in line with recent proposals. The study suggested that such a tax would decrease household consumption, due to the increased cost of goods. The average household would pay 40% more for natural gas, 13% more for electricity, and more than 20 cents per gallon extra for gasoline. Costs would rise even more in subsequent years.

Price hikes like these can only mean lower standards of living and less opportunity. Families that spend a bigger portion of their household income on transportation, utilities and household goods are hurt, not helped, by carbon tax schemes that make traditional forms of energy more expensive.

Over the past 25 years, nearly 1.2 billion people around the world have been lifted out of poverty, while both malnutrition and the risk of death from air pollution have decreased. Taken together, these achievements are nothing short of a miracle. But, government's pursuit of hugely-expensive climate mitigation policies is threatening to slow momentum in reducing poverty. The German government, for example, plans to spend \$44 billion over 4 years to help the country cut its CO₂ emissions. Such measures will likely reduce the global rise in temperature by 0.00018 degrees in a hundred years – an immeasurably small gain for such a huge cost. By contrast, spending the same amount on recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic or preventing tuberculosis in developing countries could save more than ten million lives. Policies that reduce poverty are climate policies. History has shown conclusively that making people richer and less vulnerable is one of the best ways to strengthen societies' resilience to challenges such as climate threats.

Over 80% of the energy that the peoples of the world use to survive come from fossil fuels, because that is the cheapest, most plentiful, most reliable source ever developed. More than a billion people around the world face challenges for adequate food, clean water and protection from heat and cold due to a lack of access to energy. Anyone who cares about our environment and climate recognize that cheap, plentiful, reliable energy is essential.

A Better Way - As the oil and gas industry has shown, there is a better way. Just a few years ago, no one would have imagined the U.S. could increase production of oil and natural gas while cutting greenhouse gas emissions, which are now near 25-year lows. The oil and gas industry has proven that over the long-term it is possible to lead in energy production and in environmental stewardship. By focusing on more efficient use of energy, it is possible to lower emissions without imposing even more environmental restrictions. An American energy policy that values innovation over regulation can turn energy policy challenges into great opportunities for economic growth and energy security. This approach is not just good business, it's good stewardship and a much better strategy for improving the quality of life for all.

Conclusion

EPA greenhouse gas regulatory proposals are a sweeping example of regulatory power that disproportionately harms low-income families across the U.S. Inevitably, energy costs radically rise as companies try to cope with the new costs associated with unrealistic mandates on emission levels. An increase in energy costs would most impact low-income families. These families would see larger percentages of their incomes lost to soaring energy bills.

Climate change is an appealing boutique issue for some liberal billionaires and some movie stars because “saving the planet” appeals to their vanity. But, if you are not a liberal billionaire, you’re trying to stay afloat not because the oceans are rising but because family incomes are flatlined. Climate change is a luxury issue most Americans can’t afford.

President Obama said global warming was our nation’s biggest threat. He championed his agreement with China on cutting carbon pollution, but all it really means is the U.S. begins to raise energy costs immediately and China agrees to have a meeting in 2030 to discuss what actions they may or may not take. President Obama used global warming as a distraction to dodge the real problems our nation faces and avoid critiques of his performance.

President Biden and activists have followed Obama’s lead and want to exercise control over the energy sources Americans use every day. Energy innovation drives American progress. Real growth comes from individual Americans figuring out more efficient and reliable ways of doing things, not from Executive Orders written in Washington, D.C.

The global climate debate remains a critical challenge for America. The Trump Administration worked diligently to unravel the overwhelming consequences of an ill-founded and misguided Obama Administration Climate Action Plan. Unfortunately, President Biden appears ready to repeat the Obama legacy of failed energy policies. We should seek climate policies that provide America with the energy security and the industrial development it needs to provide for future jobs and economic growth.

The U.S. has a unique opportunity to show the world how energy abundance can be used as a positive force to lift people up, which is different than a philosophy of embracing a zero-emissions world.