



Intimidating the “Deniers” to Enforce the “Consensus”

The Earth does not have a fever. Scientific evidence simply doesn't support the belief that man-made climate change is a catastrophic threat to the planet. And unreliable climate models are poor substitutes for actual data.

Then why don't more scientists buck the “consensus”? The answer is simple. Anyone who questions the climate change scare is attacked and threatened.

As more and more scientists speak out, dissenting from the climate change orthodoxy, the attacks against them have increased. Climate campaigners seem to think: *If you can't counter the message, silence the messenger.* From smears to intimidation to name-calling to lawsuits and threats of criminal prosecution, climate activists are leaving no stone unturned.

Activists—and “reporters” for theoretically objective media outlets—have targeted skeptical scientists.

Lock 'Em Up!

Scientist James Hansen accused skeptics, particularly energy company CEOs, of “crimes against humanity and nature” in 2012 while he was still leading NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies.¹

Did you know?

- ★ Global warming advocates want to charge “climate deniers” with crimes against humanity
- ★ The UN IPCC climate chief suggested that global warming skeptics should rub asbestos into their faces
- ★ Buzz Aldrin and other NASA astronauts and scientists are skeptics about man-made climate change

Hansen, living on a taxpayer-financed salary at the time, warned that “our children and grandchildren will judge those who have misled the public, allowing fossil fuel emissions to continue almost unfettered, as guilty of crimes against humanity and nature.”

Their crime? “They should be blamed because they have supported misinformation” about climate change “to the public,” Hansen said.²

Hansen doubled down on his charge a few months later, noting that he had used the phrase “crimes against humanity” on purpose—“Not only for dramatic effect, but also because it is accurate, given the enormous scale

of the consequences to humanity” if climate change is not addressed.

“It wasn’t only aimed at the fossil fuel CEOs. This also applies to politicians who pretend the global warming is not man-made,” he added.³

More than a few prominent climate activists think dissenters from the global warming narrative should be in jail.

“Do I think they should be in jail, I think they should be enjoying three hots and a cot at the Hague with all the other war criminals,” said activist Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the son of attorney general and presidential candidate Robert K. Kennedy, at the 2014 People’s Climate March in New York City.⁵

Kennedy accused skeptical politicians of “selling out the public trust”: “Those guys are doing the Koch Brothers’ bidding and are against all the evidence of the rational mind, saying global warming does not exist. They are contemptible human beings. I wish there were a law you could punish them with.”

★ ★ ★

**“Proper Little
Jailer’s Pet,
Aren’t We?”**

Eric Idle of *Monty Python* fame echoed Hansen’s lock-them-up message, issuing a call to place global warming skeptics on trial. “I think that denying climate change is a crime against humanity. And they should be held accountable in a World Court,” Idle tweeted from his @EricIdle account in 2017.⁴

That wasn’t the first time that Kennedy had called for jailing his political opponents. In 2009 he had called coal companies “criminal enterprises” and declared that their CEOs “should be in jail . . . for all of eternity.”⁶

Bill Nye, the Jail-the-Skeptics Guy

Bill Nye, “the science guy,” also favors jailing global warming skeptics. During a 2015 interview in New York City’s Central Park, I asked Nye about Robert F. Kennedy’s call to jail climate skeptics and lock them up at The Hague: “What is your thought on jailing skeptics as war criminals?”

Nye responded, “Well, we’ll see what happens. Was it appropriate to jail the guys from ENRON?” He added, “So, we will see what happens. Was it appropriate to jail people from the cigarette industry who insisted that this addictive product was not addictive and so on? And you think about in these cases—or me as a taxpayer and voter—the introduction of this extreme doubt about climate change is affecting my quality of life as a public citizen. So I can see where people are very concerned about this and are pursuing criminal investigations as well as engaging in discussion like this.”

I asked Nye about the chilling effect of threatening scientists who dissent from man-made global warming claims with criminal investigations and jail time, and he responded, “That there is a chilling effect on scientists who are in extreme doubt about climate change—I think is good. The extreme doubt about climate change people—without going too far afield here—are leaving the world worse than they found it because they are keeping us from getting to work. They are holding us back.”⁷

Many climate activists find the idea of jailing skeptics appealing. In 2014, the warmist Gawker website urged, “Arrest Climate-Change Deniers”; said “Those denialists should face jail”; called global warming skeptics “Criminally negligent”; and argued, “It’s time to punish the climate-change liars.”⁸



If This Be Treason, Make the Most of It!

In 2009, *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman accused congressmen who voted against the climate cap-and-trade bill of “treason against the planet!”: “As I watched the deniers make their arguments, I couldn’t help thinking that I was watching a form of treason—treason against the planet,” Krugman wrote.⁹ Apparently, the fact that the bill was purely symbolic—it would have had no impact on global CO₂ levels—did not matter to Krugman.

Canadian environmentalist David Suzuki called for government leaders skeptical of global warming to be “thrown in jail”: “I really believe that people like the former prime minister of Canada should be thrown in jail for wilful blindness,” Suzuki said in 2016.¹⁰

In 2017, climate activist John Gilkison at EV World accused me of “crimes against humanity” for “retarding any meaning action to mitigate climate change.” A list of those who dissented on man-made climate change, including my old boss Senator James Inhofe, were slated for a 2029 “trial.”¹¹

Threatened by the UN

UN IPCC climate chief Rajendra Pachauri has attempted to portray the UN as open to dissenting ideas on the climate. In a June 15, 2010, BBC commentary, Pachauri declared, “I am not deaf to those who do not agree with the scientific consensus on man-made climate change. . . . The IPCC and the scientific community at large should welcome the development of a vigorous debate on the science of climate change.”¹²

Oh really?

Is this the same Pachauri who compared global warming skeptics to flat-earthers in 2008? “There is, even today, a Flat Earth Society that meets every year to say the Earth is flat. The science about climate change is very clear. There really is no room for doubt at this point,” he said.¹³

Pachauri’s claim to respect scientific dissent and openness is belied by the wish he expressed in in 2010 that climate skeptics would rub asbestos

into their faces. At that time the UN IPCC climate chief called skeptics “people who deny the link between smoking and cancer; they are people who say that asbestos is as good as talcum powder—I hope that they apply it to their faces every day. . . . I’m totally in the clear. I have absolutely nothing but indifference to what these people are doing.”¹⁴

And UN special climate envoy Gro Harlem Brundtland declared it “completely immoral, even, to question” the UN’s scientific “consensus.”¹⁵

The fact is, the United Nations is on board with the smear campaign and the threats to make skeptics into criminals, warning that ignoring global warming would be “criminally irresponsible.”¹⁶

Off with Their Heads!

And jail is insufficient punishment in the eyes of some climate activists. I was “sentenced to death” in John Gilkison’s imagined 2029 climate trials.¹⁷ In 2009, a public appeal on the influential U.S. website Talking Points Memo asked, “At what point do we jail or execute global warming deniers?”¹⁸ The oft-cited website helps set the agenda for the political Left in the United States.

The Talking Points Memo article proposed, “So when the right wing fucktards have caused it to be too late to fix the problem, and we start seeing the devastating consequences and we start seeing end of the World type events—how will we punish those responsible. It will be too late. So shouldn’t we start punishing them now?”

After my Climate Depot website drew unwelcome attention to the Talking Points Memo article, it was pulled and the website published a retraction and apology, but the sentiment expressed was stark and unequivocal, and it has significant support among climate-fear promoters.

One climate activist predicted that skeptics will be lynched. “As climate impacts continue to become clearer to the general populace, fossil fuel executives, and climate misinformers who have played a part in this catastrophe,

may some time soon prefer a safe jail cell to the torches and pitchforks that are coming their way,” wrote Peter Sinclair of the climate fear-promoting website Climate Denial Crock of the Week.¹⁹

On June 5, 2009, former Clinton administration official Joe Romm of Climate Progress defended a posting on his website warning that climate skeptics would be strangled in bed for rejecting the view that we face a man-made climate crisis. “An entire generation will soon be ready to strangle you and your kind while you sleep in your beds,” he warned.²⁰

Romm, too, pulled his comments after Climate Depot drew attention to them. “The original was clearly not a threat but a prediction—albeit one that I certainly do not agree with. Since some people misread it, I am editing it,” Romm wrote.

After Hurricane Harvey hit Houston and Irma hit Florida in 2017, climate activists went on a rampage against “deniers.”



Fly Me to the Moon

Why should skeptics be allowed scientific credentials? According to Al Gore, they’re just like the conspiracy theorists who think the moon landings were faked. “They’re almost like the ones who still believe that the moon landing was staged in a movie lot in Arizona,” Gore said in 2008, adding, “that demeans them a little bit, but it’s not that far off.”²² Gore repeated this moon landing conspiracy charge at a House global warming hearing on Capitol Hill on April 24, 2009.²³

Ironically, Gore appeared to be totally ignorant of the fact that actual NASA moon walkers have declared themselves climate skeptics—as have engineers who put them on the moon.²⁴

Buzz Aldrin has declared he is a global warming skeptic, along with his fellow moonwalker, the geologist and astronaut Jack Schmitt.²⁵

Unfortunately, Gore was not asked during his congressional hearing how he can equate climate skeptics with people who believe the moon landing was “staged” when two prominent moon walkers themselves are skeptics.

NASA’s Aldrin—who earned a doctorate in astronautics at MIT—declared in a July 3, 2009, interview with the UK *Telegraph* that he was skeptical of man-made climate fears. “I think the climate has been changing for billions of years,” Aldrin, the second person to walk on the

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After Harvey, “climate change denial should be a crime,” declared an article at The Outline. “Denial can and will leave people dead,” the article explained. “In the wake of Harvey, it’s time to treat science denial as gross negligence—and hold those who do the denying accountable.”²¹

The *Nation* magazine featured activist Mark Hertsgaard declaring, “The victims of Hurricane Harvey have a murderer—and it’s not the storm.” He added, “climate denialism is literally killing us.”

“It is past time to call out Trump and all climate deniers for this crime against humanity. No more treating climate denial like an honest difference of opinion,” Hertsgaard wrote.

“The first step toward justice is to call things by their true names. Murder is murder, whether the murderers admit it or not. Punish it as

Moon, said.²⁶ “I am skeptical humans are causing global warming.”²⁷

Harrison Schmitt, who flew on the Apollo 17 mission, wrote, “The ‘global warming scare’ is being used as a political tool to increase government control over American lives, incomes and decision making.”²⁸ (Ironically, in his film *An Inconvenient Sequel* Gore touted the famous “Blue Marble” photo of Earth, which Schmitt has been credited with taking during his Apollo mission on December 7, 1972.)²⁹

Apollo 7 astronaut Walt Cunningham directly confronted Gore’s claims. “Has man been on the moon? Well, I helped get man on the moon, so I know man has been on the moon,” Cunningham said. “I mean, I happen to know the Earth is round.”³⁰

Cunningham called man-made climate change alarm “one of the biggest frauds in the field of

science.” As he explained, “My background in space science. My doctoral thesis that I was working on was fluctuations in the Earth’s magnetic field. I have no political inhibitions at all, I just think we ought to be honest about this and not be trying to use it to our own ends to try to get money from the government.”³¹

In addition, former NASA scientists who were part of the team who put man on the moon have criticized the current NASA for promoting climate alarm. “There is no convincing physical evidence to support the man-made climate change hypothesis,” the Right Climate Stuff group announced in 2013. “Empirical evidence shows that Earth is currently ‘greening’ significantly due to additional CO₂ and a modest warming.”³²

such, or we encourage more of the same,” Hertsgaard explained. “To refuse to act against global warming is to condemn thousands of people to death and suffering today and millions more tomorrow. This is murder, even if Trump’s willful ignorance of climate science prevents him from seeing it.”³³

Climate activist Brad Johnson followed suit, demanding that the United States should “put officials who reject science in jail” as he blamed Hurricane Irma on climate change.³⁴

If you can’t put them on trial, execute them, or expose them to lethal doses of asbestos, there may be another way to silence skeptics. British journalism lecturer and climate activist Alex Lockwood proposed shutting down skeptical blogs. The internet, he said, “should be nationalized as a public utility” to combat global warming skepticism. “I would argue that climate disinformation online is a form of cultural and political malware every bit as threatening to our new media freedoms,” Lockwood wrote, adding that it “harms not only our democracy, but our planet.”³⁵

In 2007, Weather Channel climate expert Heidi Cullen sent a chilling message to anyone dissenting from the climate consensus, calling for withholding certification from skeptical meteorologists. “If a meteorologist can’t speak to the fundamental science of climate change, then maybe the AMS (American Meteorological Society) shouldn’t give them a Seal of Approval,” Cullen wrote.³⁶

“Climate Deniers”

The various threats against “climate deniers”—from the fantasies about executing them to the proposals that they be denied credentials—are justified by insulting accusations against them. As we’ve seen, the

critics of the man-made climate change theory have been compared to flat-earthers and conspiracy-theory kooks. But the most persistent and insidious tactic is for global warming believers to equate climate skepticism with Holocaust denial. That’s the justification for the alarmists’ fantasies about trying skeptics for crimes against humanity.

In 2006 environmentalist David Roberts, for example, called for putting the “bastards” who belong to what he termed the global warming “denial industry” on trial.

Roberts wrote in *Grist Magazine*, “When we’ve finally gotten serious about global warming, when the impacts are really hitting us and we’re in a full worldwide scramble to minimize the damage, we should have war crimes trials for these bastards—some sort of climate Nuremberg.”³⁸

Gore frequently uses the word “deniers” to describe scientists and others who don’t share his view of the Earth’s climate.

The “climate deniers” meme has caught on in the media, in academia, and generally with the proponents of the man-made climate change theory.

“Every time you address the Holocaust you don’t bring somebody in that says it didn’t happen,” Bill McGuire of University College London said on ABC News. “And we’re at that stage now. We have Holocaust deniers and climate change deniers, and to be honest I don’t think there’s a great deal of difference.”³⁹

“I do think it’s often a mistake to call them ‘climate skeptics.’ I think they’re ‘deniers.’ Just as I think President Ahmadinejad of Iran, who claims to not believe that the Holocaust occurred. He knows it did,” Nobel Prize-winning economist Thomas Schelling said.⁴⁰



Toxic Masculinity

In an article headlined “What’s Up with Conservative White Men and Climate Denial?”

Washington Post reporter Chris Mooney has linked climate skepticism to “social dominance orientation... male right-wingers want to dominate others.” Challenging Al Gore and the UN is “all about testosterone firing and being an alpha male.”³⁷



A Ubiquitous Smear

The Popular Technology website put together an impressive collection of public figures comparing global warming skepticism with the denial of Hitler's crimes.⁴²

"It reminds me in some ways of the debate taking place in this country and around the world in the late 1930s—there were people—who said 'don't worry! Hitler's not real! It'll disappear!'"

—**Bernie Sanders, U.S. Senator from Vermont (2010)**

"The deniers of climate change are cut from the same cloth as Holocaust deniers. They've never been to the death camps, Auschwitz and Birkenau, so what they haven't seen does not exist."

—**Charles Larson, American University (2013)**

"At its core, global warming denial is like Holocaust denial, an assault on common decency."

—**David Fiderer, The Huffington Post (2009)**

"There are many more traits that the climate deniers share with the creationists and Holocaust deniers and others who distort the truth."

—**Donald Prothero, Occidental College (2012)**

"Let's just say that global warming deniers are now on a par with Holocaust deniers."

—**Ellen Goodman, Boston Globe (2007)**

"When the press does a story on the Holocaust, do they give equal time to the revisionists?"

—**Greg Craven, Central High School, Independence, Oregon (2010)**

"I think these people are anti-science flat-earthers.... They are every bit as dangerous as Holocaust deniers."

—**Guy Keleny, The Independent (2013)**

"These are not debunkers, testing outrageous claims with scientific rigor. They are deniers—like Holocaust deniers."

—**Jim Hoggan, DeSmogBlog (2005)**

"Bluntly put, climate change deniers pose a greater danger than the lingering industry that denies the Holocaust."

—**Joel Connelly, Seattle Post-Intelligencer (2007)**

"*An Inconvenient Truth* is so convincing that it makes opposers of the argument as credible as Holocaust deniers."

—**Jon Niccum, Lawrence Journal-World (2006)**

"The threat of climate change is catastrophic. In fact, the current wave of climate change scepticism smacks of 1930s-style appeasement."

—**Nathan Rees, Australian politician (2009)**

“Some people don’t believe in climate warning—like those who don’t believe there was a Holocaust.”

—**Paul McCartney, musician (2010)**

“There are now proposals that ‘global warming deniers’ be treated the same as ‘Holocaust deniers: professional ostracism, belittlement, ridicule and, even, jail.”

—**Paul Payack, Global Language Monitor (2006)**

“There are bound to be deniers. Whenever you set up a thesis there’s bound to be somebody who comes the opposite way . . . like Holocaust deniers.”

—**Pete Postlethwaite, actor (2009)**

“Surely it’s time for climate-change deniers to have their opinions forcibly tattooed on their bodies.”

—**Richard Glover, *The Sydney Morning Herald* (2011)**

“Does the Media Research Center think equal air time should be given to Holocaust deniers and flat-earthers as well?”

—**Richard Kyte, Viterbo University (2013)**

“We don’t give Holocaust deniers equal time to vent their noxious views, so why offer it to the climate change deniers?”

—**Richard Schiffman, *The Huffington Post* (2012)**

CBS News anchor Scott Pelley compared global warming skeptics to Holocaust deniers. “If I do an interview with Elie Wiesel, am I required as a journalist to find a Holocaust denier?” Pelley asked in 2006.⁴¹

But scientists are fighting back against these “denier” smears.

This repeated use of Holocaust terminology has drawn the ire of professor Roger Pielke Jr. of the University of Colorado’s Center for Science and Technology Policy Research. “The phrase ‘climate change denier’ is meant to be evocative of the phrase ‘holocaust denier,’” Pielke wrote on October 9, 2006. “Let’s be blunt. This allusion is an affront to those who suffered and died in the Holocaust. This allusion has no place in the discourse on climate change.”⁴³

Swedish scientist Lennart Bengtsson has also slammed the “climate denier” canard. “I find it difficult to believe that the prominent Jewish



In Praise of Skepticism

“Can’t I just be called an ‘industrial-emissions-warming-catastrophe’ skeptic, honoring Diogenes, Socrates, and the core tradition of scientific thought, the refusal to accept claims ‘on authority’ without testing them with reality? Skepticism has brought us a better understanding of our solar system (thanks, Copernicus and Galileo) and our universes big and little (thanks, Einstein and Heisenberg), the end of the unjust and brutal social systems of monarchy, feudalism, slavery, imperialism, and colonialism, as well as the modern medicines and treatments of water, crops, and materials that have extended our lives some 50 years on average from the 1600’s. Please, call me a skeptic. And lay off World War II.”

—statistician Caleb Rossiter⁴⁶

scientists in the GWPF [Global Warming Policy Foundation] council appreciate being labeled deniers,” Bengtsson wrote in 2014. “That I have taken a stand trying to put the climate debate onto new tracks has resulted in rather violent protests. I have not only been labeled a sceptic but even a denier, and faced harsh criticism from colleagues. . . . The low-point is probably having been labeled ‘world criminal’ by a representative of the English wind power-industry.”⁴⁴

Climate statistician Caleb Rossiter has railed against those who compare skeptics to Holocaust deniers. “How am I, a statistician who teaches about the uncertainty of exploratory computer climate models in separating human-induced warming from natural fluctuations of various cycles and extreme randomness, analogous to someone who denies that the Nazis planned and carried out the murder of six million Jewish civilians?” Rossiter asked.⁴⁵

Skeptical climatologist Roy Spencer, formerly of NASA, has had enough of the smears. He

made quite a stir in 2014 when he announced, “As long as they continue to call people like me ‘deniers’, I will call them ‘global warming Nazis.’”

Spencer explains how offensive it is for climate skepticism to be equated with “the denial that the Nazi’s extermination of millions of Jews ever happened”: “Too many of us for too long have ignored the repulsive, extremist nature of the comparison. It’s time to push back.”⁴⁷

Media Bias

Despite the ferocious attacks on global warming skeptics, the media hype the complaints of global warming proponents that they are under constant assault and get nasty threatening emails. In 2010 ABC's *World News Sunday* featured a segment with anchor Dan Harris claiming that climate activist professors like Michael Mann of Penn State were getting a “spike” in threatening emails.⁴⁸

I was featured in a brief soundbite in the segment. But the real fireworks happened during unaired portions of the interview, which I taped and the Media Research Center featured on their Newsbusters site. Harris was asking about my occasional post of scientists' and activists' publicly available email addresses on my website:

HARRIS: So we'll just get your reaction, I know this is a complaint you've heard before, but of late, climate scientists say they're seeing a big spike in threatening e-mails, and the FBI is looking into it and the scientists say that it's stopping them from doing their work for some are quite scared. What is your—what do you think of this alleged trend?

MORANO: Well, first of all, no one advocates violence. There's always lunatics on any side of any hotly contested debate that will make threats or do threats of physical harm or death threats. No one is advocating that. But, what I will say is these scientists, who for decades have been telling people that the debate was over, the science is settled and that we must act now—we must radically alter our lifestyle—we need to make all these changes in order to confront the crisis of global warming—that's all been now exposed, especially the lie of 'consensus'. It was a con job.

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So right now, the public is very appropriately venting their anger to the very scientists who spent decades refusing to debate, suppressing dissenting opinion, trying to redefine what peer-reviewed literature meant and using the UN political process, which demonized skeptics as “flat-earthers.” The public is appropriately angry at these scientists. And again, no one’s advocating violence but it is refreshing to see these scientists hear from the public, when you go to a used car salesman and you get conned, you get a lemon, you don’t go back to the used car dealer all happy and pleasant. You have a lot of anger and that’s what these scientists are appropriately feeling and that is why I actually published the e-mails, publicly available e-mails, of these scientists on my website, Climate Depot...

So threats are on all sides of this. There’s no way we can look at this and say, “Oh these poor ClimateGate scientists” or “poor UN scientists.” The bottom line is they were at ground zero perpetuating a con job of the illusion of a consensus. They deserve the public wrath they’re getting. It’s refreshing that they’re finally getting a hostile reaction. They’re not in their little cocoon of the U.N. or the mainstream media like ABC News.

HARRIS: Marc, thank you for doing this. I appreciate it.

MORANO: Thank you, Dan. I appreciate it.

HARRIS: Have a good rest of your weekend.

MORANO: Alright, I’ll expect to do a rebuttal to your piece on Sunday night or Monday morning. So look for it. I don’t expect the—I think you did the Fred Singer piece last year, which was atrocious reporting. I believe that was you, right? You did the piece on Fred Singer?

HARRIS: I did the piece on Fred Singer.

MORANO: So I’m not expecting much from you, but we’ll have fun.



Hate Mail Bag

Here is a small sampling of the hate mail I have received in recent years:

“Let’s meet man to man and I’ll rip that stupid smile off your face.”

“If you have children, I hope beyond hopes that you must bury them, and that your grief will know no end.”

“You and your children should be burned in public.”

“Hi I just wanted to let you know what a goddamn stupid lying idiot you are. I really hope you are someday put on trial before a world tribunal on charges of ‘crimes against humanity.’ . . .

You are an evil little fuck and you have your head so far up your ass, you can tickle your tonsils when you wiggle your ears. Fuck you, ‘moron-o.’”

“Thank you for being one of the biggest assholes on planet Earth and for helping to doom every living ecosystem . . . Go fuck yourself.”

“I will have a nice long drive up to DC and have a very short and unpleasant conversation with your ass if you dont [sic] stop harrassing [sic] scientists.”

“I hope they hang you and the rest of the stooges for the fossil fuel industry.”⁴⁹

HARRIS: Well, thank you for having low expectations.

MORANO: I have very low expectations.

HARRIS: OK.⁵⁰

That was not exactly the warmest interview exchange, but it was necessary. Too often, mainstream media reporters either never bother to interview climate skeptics. Or else they interview them and either distort their points or limit them to a few seconds of airtime. We all know it is going to be a one-sided hack job. I had decided to let Harris know my expectations. And those very low expectations turned out be justified. The ABC News segment degenerated into attempts to link climate change skeptics to white supremacists.⁵¹

As for nasty emails, skeptics get their full share of them, too, just as anyone on any side of any contentious debate does. Skeptical Princeton

physicist Will Happer, for example, received one that said, “You are a fucking uneducated Nazi. I hope you hang by the neck until you are dead.”⁵² Two threatening e-mails that I received while I was employed at the U.S. Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee were referred by the committee to the Senate Sergeant of Arms for further investigation. Threatening phone calls and hate mail continued after I left the Senate and started the Climate Depot website.

Climate Conspiracy

In Canada, climate skepticism has become an increasingly risky proposition. “Canada Now Investigates ‘Climate Denial,’” read a 2017 headline in the *Toronto Sun*.⁵³

“It’s like something out of George Orwell’s 1984. Canada’s Competition Bureau, an arm’s length agency funded by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s government to the tune of almost \$50 million annually, investigated three organizations accused of denying mainstream climate science for over a year, following a complaint from an environmental group,” reported Lorrie Goldstein.

And several U.S. Senators are actually pushing racketeering charges against climate skeptics.

Rhode Island Democrat senator Sheldon Whitehouse has advocated using RICO statutes to prosecute global warming skeptics. RICO stands for the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, which was originally designed to punish the mafia and other organized crime organizations, not dissenting scientists and journalists who don’t accept that the UN is the last word on climate science.

Senator Whitehouse explained his legal rationale: “In 2006, Judge Gladys Kessler of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia decided that the tobacco companies’ fraudulent campaign amounted to a racketeering

enterprise.... The parallels between what the tobacco industry did and what the fossil fuel industry is doing now are striking.”⁵⁴

The idea of prosecuting climate skeptics like gangsters surprised even long-term observers of the climate debate, who have become accustomed to the warmist side seeking to silence those who disagree with them. But it is a really enticing one to climate activist professors and politicians.

Twenty scientists, including top UN scientist Kevin Trenberth, issued a public call for RICO investigation of climate skeptics in a September 1, 2015, letter to President Obama’s attorney general, Loretta Lynch: “We appreciate that you are making aggressive and imaginative use of the limited tools available to you in the face of a recalcitrant Congress. One additional tool—recently proposed by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse—is a RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) investigation of corporations and other organizations that have knowingly deceived the American people about the risks of climate change, as a means to forestall America’s response to climate change. We strongly endorse Senator Whitehouse’s call for a RICO investigation.”⁵⁵ The letter was posted on the website of the Institute of Global Environment and Society (IGES), “non-profit, tax-exempt research institute” founded and headed by Jagadish Shukla.⁵⁶

Skeptical climate scientists fired back. Roy Spencer countered, “I would like to see RICO investigations for people on the other side of this. People who have been pushing for energy policies for people that we know will kill them. And they know that, and yet they have hidden that information from the public and from politicians for the purposes of advancing an agenda.”⁵⁷

Climatologist Judith Curry wrote, “It looks like climate scientists are going to be spending more time in courts. This never occurred to me until three or four months ago.”⁵⁸

National Review’s Rupert Darwall wrote, “The RICO statute was passed to fight the mafia. Now it’s being used by the climate mafia to silence dissent.”⁵⁹

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Why were these scientists so eager to silence any dissenting voices on climate change? Follow the money. The lead organizer of the RICO letter was George Mason University professor of climate dynamics Jagadish Shukla, who has been accused by Ian Tuttle of *National Review* of “getting rich” off climate change research funding and “pocketing \$5.6 million” from taxpayers.⁶⁰

The Washington Free Beacon reported that since 2001 Shukla’s IGES was the recipient of more than \$63 million from U.S. taxpayers.⁶¹ The organization was 98 percent funded by taxpayers from grants, with grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. And IGES has paid to Shukla \$5.6 million since 2001, according to his tax filings. His wife listed as the business manager of the “non-profit,” and their daughter is assistant business manager and assistant to the president. That \$5.6 million is in addition to Shukla’s \$314,000 annual salary from George Mason University.⁶²

Steve McIntyre wrote, “Roger Pielke Jr recently made the remarkable discovery that, in addition to his university salary from George Mason University (reported by Pielke as \$250,000), Jagadish Shukla, the leader of the #RICO20, together with his wife, had received a further \$500,000 more in 2014 alone from federal climate grants funneled through a Shukla-controlled ‘non-profit’ (Institute for Global Environment and Security, Inc.), yielding total income in 2014 of approximately \$750,000.”⁶³

Pielke reported, “From 2012–2014, the Leader of [the] RICO 20 climate scientists paid himself and his wife \$1.5 million from government climate grants for part-time work.”⁶⁴ The whole incident was quickly labelled “RICO-Gate.”

Another one of the RICO letter signers is Alan Betts, who bills himself as “Vermont’s leading climate scientist” and proudly notes that he has been “funded as an independent scientist by the National Science Foundation

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for 33 years on long-term grants.” “Bring them to court and make them face up,” Betts has said. “Somebody downstream is going to have to pay the staggering costs of all the delays in taking action on climate change.”⁶⁵ According to Betts’s website, his most recent grant from the National Science Foundation, for the 2005 through 2012 period, was for over \$600,000. Betts also receives funding from NASA.⁶⁶

After calls for congressional investigations into the scientists who signed the RICO letter, some other climate activists expressed their dismay. Warmist William Connolley did not mince words about his fellow climate activists, calling the conduct of “the RICO 20” nothing short of “lessons in stupidity.”: “What were Shukla, Maibach and all the others thinking when they did all of this from their work email accounts?” Connolley wrote. “I think the entire idea of using RICO is stupid. . . . No, there is no ‘strong agreement among the scientific community’ supporting Whitehouse’s idea to use RICO.”⁶⁷

Science Is Hard

Other bizarre intimidation tactics have been used against climate skeptics.

In 2016, former California governor and actor Arnold Schwarzenegger threatened climate skeptics on video: “Some politicians even want to shut down the EPA’s ability to regulate carbon. I would like to strap their mouth to the exhaust pipe of a truck, turn on the engine and let’s see how long it would take them to tap out.”⁶⁸ Yes, you heard that correctly, the Terminator wants to terminate skeptics.

In 2013 Schwarzenegger had threatened death to skeptics by the same method, saying he wished to “strap some conservative-thinking people to a tailpipe for an hour and then they will agree it’s (CO₂) a pollutant!”⁶⁹

Schwarzenegger was conflating carbon dioxide with carbon monoxide.



A Different Holocaust Comparison

Tony Heller of the skeptical website Real Climate Science had perhaps the best take on Schwarzenegger's threat: "Man with thick German accent wants to kill his political opponents with poison gas."⁷⁰

Schwarzenegger's death wish is not the first time that climate skeptics have been threatened with deadly carbon monoxide—or that the warmists have demonstrated their confusion about which carbon compound it is that they are blaming for climate change.

At a 2011 presentation at Aspen's American Renewable Energy Day (AREDAY) summit, I was told to drive my car into a garage with the engine running and then close the doors. My attempts to explain the difference between carbon

dioxide—a harmless trace essential gas we all exhale—and toxic carbon monoxide were without success.⁷¹

Driving Skeptics Out of Their Jobs

All of this climate of intolerance toward dissent by any scientist not toeing the "consensus" means skeptical scientists become outcasts.

We have already met Roger Pielke Jr., a professor in the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Colorado. The intolerance and intimidation in the climate debate have forced his exit from climate research.

"The incessant attacks and smears are effective, no doubt, I have already shifted all of my academic work away from climate issues. I am simply not initiating any new research or papers on the topic and I have ring-fenced my slowly diminishing blogging on the subject," Pielke wrote in 2015.⁷²

"My research was attacked by thought police in journalism, activist groups funded by billionaires and even the White House," he added.⁷³

According to Pielke, "My research led me to a conclusion that many climate campaigners find unacceptable: There is scant evidence to indicate that hurricanes, floods, tornadoes or drought have become more frequent

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or intense in the U.S. or globally. In fact we are in an era of good fortune when it comes to extreme weather. This is a topic I’ve studied and published on as much as anyone over two decades.”

After Arizona Democratic Congressman Raúl Grijalva, ranking member of the House of Representatives Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, opened an investigation of seven U.S. academics including Pielke Jr., whom he considered not in line with the climate change consensus, Pielke announced, “I am under ‘investigation’ and denounced it as a “witch hunt”: “Congressman Grijalva doesn’t have any evidence of any wrongdoing on my part, either ethical or legal, because there is none.” Grijalva “simply disagrees with the substance of my testimony,” he added.⁷⁴

“My 11-year old asked me if I was going to jail. Really nasty stuff,” Pielke wrote.⁷⁵ “My older kids in High School had teachers pull them aside to ask about their father’s ‘investigation’. Smear campaigns are about collateral damage,” he explained. “A lot of this is about eliminating unwelcomed voices in the debate.”⁷⁶

In 2014 hurricane forecasting pioneer and atmospheric scientist Bill Gray told me his personal story about facing the climate change establishment.

Gray’s story begins when Al Gore was vice president and one of Gore’s colleagues called Gray and invited him to lunch.

“I said fine I’ll be glad to come and what is the purpose of this? And they said, ‘Well, uh, Climate change.’ I asked, ‘Who else are you having in?’ And he mentioned Tom Karl and a lot of these warming people. And I said, ‘Well, I’ll be honest with you, I’ll be glad to come in and have lunch with you that’s fine. Yes I’ll have respect for the . . . vice president of the US, but I will tell you that I’m not a believer in global warming, human induced global warming, there’s natural global warming.’ And I told him, ‘I’ll be honest, if you still want me to come in fine.’ ‘Well,’ he said ‘they’ll get back to you.’ And then I never heard from them.”⁷⁷

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The Gore story did not end there for Gray. “But right after that—I had had NOAA funding for the hurricane work for years that I would be doing—no grants came after that. NSF (National Science Foundation) cut me off.”

Another who was cut off is atmospheric physicist Murry Salby, who formerly held the Climate Chair at Macquarie University in Australia. Salby’s finding that man-made CO₂ emissions could only cause warming of “a few tenths of a degree, if at all” made shockwaves in the climate change world. “Because of the saturation effect in the energy absorption of CO₂ molecules with increasing concentration and short residence time, the further increase in temperature could be therefore only at most a few tenths of a degree, if at all. However, the known fossil reserves would be exhausted by then,” Salby reported.⁷⁸

“Wow,” wrote Climatologist Judith Curry in 2011 after examining Salby’s research. “If atmospheric physicist Salby’s analysis holds up, this could revolutionize AGW science.”⁷⁹

But instead of seeing his research welcomed by the scientific community, Salby soon found himself out of a job.

“Macquarie terminated my appointment,” Salby explained in 2013. “While I was in Europe presenting our new research on greenhouse gases, Macquarie undertook its misconduct proceedings—with me in absentia. . . . Upon arriving at Paris airport for my return to Australia, I was advised that my return ticket (among the resources Macquarie agreed to provide) had been cancelled. The latest chapter in a pattern, this action left me stranded in Europe, with no arrangements for lodging or return travel. The ticket that had been cancelled was non-refundable.”⁸⁰

Salby was literally left without a ticket—or a university. And things only got worse for him from there.

“Macquarie then accused me of ‘misconduct’, cancelling my salary. It blocked access to my office, computer resources, even to personal equipment I had transferred from the US. My Russian student was

prohibited from speaking with me. She was isolated—left without competent supervision and the resources necessary to complete her PhD investigation, research that Macquarie approved when it lured her from Russia,” Salby wrote.

Patrick Michaels was forced out of his job as Virginia State Climatologist in 2007 after clashing with Virginia’s governor over climate change. The *Washington Post* reported that then-Governor Tim Kaine “had warned Michaels not to use his official title in discussing his (climate change) views.”⁸¹ The paper reported, “Nobody dislikes [Michaels] because of his day job” but because he “moonlights as one of the country’s most aggressive and, in some circles, most reviled skeptics about the scientific consensus on climate change.” Critics of Michaels lamented that he “creates the false impression of another side to a closed debate.”

“I resigned as Virginia state climatologist because I was told that I could not speak in public on my area of expertise, global warming, as state climatologist,” Michaels said in 2007. “It was impossible to maintain academic freedom with this speech restriction.”⁸²

Other states have also found ways to force out their inconvenient skeptical state climatologists.

Delaware State Climatologist David Legates was also asked by his state’s then-Governor Ruth Ann Minner in 2007 to stop using his title in any public comments on climate change: “Your views on climate change, as I understand them, are not aligned with those of my administration. In light of my position and due to the confusion surrounding your role with the state, I am directing you to offer any future statements on this or other public policy matters only on behalf of yourself or the University of Delaware, and not as state climatologist.”⁸³

Legates described the intolerant atmosphere for climate skeptics: “I’ve had several friends who have essentially been told if you speak out as climate—on climate change, you will essentially be fired.”⁸⁴

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In 2011, Legates was formerly asked to step down from his position. “I have been asked by our Dean’s office to step down and the former Deputy Dean, Dr. Daniel J. Leathers, will be reassuming the title of the Delaware State Climatologist,” Legates wrote.⁸⁵

Oregon State Climatologist George Taylor, the past president of the American Association of State Climatologists, also ran afoul of the global warming establishment because of his skeptical views. In 2005, the Oregon Governor’s office declared, “George Taylor doesn’t represent the governor’s office, and he doesn’t represent the state of Oregon.”⁸⁶

“Being skeptical about the effects of human-caused greenhouse gases on global climate variations can threaten one’s long-term job security,” said Taylor, who was stripped of his title.⁸⁷

The shutting down of these skeptical state climatologists created quite a stir. “Virginia joins Delaware that fired David Legates and Oregon that fired George Taylor in acts of blatant ideological cleansing,” wrote then Harvard Physicist Lubos Motl.⁸⁸

In 2017, Climatologist Judith Curry, serving as the chair of the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Georgia Institute of Technology, had had enough. She walked away from her tenured professorship, citing climate “craziness” and an untenable situation of “a battle of scientific integrity versus career suicide.”

“I have retired from Georgia Tech, and I have no intention of seeking another academic or administrative position in a university or government agency. However, I most certainly am not retiring from professional life,” Curry wrote in January 2017.

“I’m ‘cashing out’ with 186 published journal articles and two books,” she explained. “The deeper reasons have to do with my growing disenchantment with universities, the academic field of climate science and scientists.

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“My fall from the ivory tower that started in 2005 is now complete,” she added. (Curry was once dubbed a “high priestess of global warming” before—as is detailed in chapter ten of *The Politically Incorrect Guide® to Climate Change*—the Climategate scandal made her a skeptic.)

“The deeper reasons [for my resignation] have to do with my growing disenchantment with universities, the academic field of climate science and scientists,” Curry continued. “A deciding factor was that I no longer know what to say to students and postdocs regarding how to navigate the CRAZINESS in the field of climate science. Research and other professional activities are professionally rewarded only if they are channeled in certain directions approved by a politicized academic establishment—funding, ease of getting your papers published, getting hired in prestigious positions, appointments to prestigious committees and boards, professional recognition, etc. How young scientists are to navigate all this is beyond me, and it often becomes a battle of scientific integrity versus career suicide (I have worked through these issues with a number of skeptical young scientists)... At this point, the private sector seems like a more ‘honest’ place for a scientist working in a politicized field than universities or government labs—at least when you are your own boss.”⁸⁹

In 2014 a paper by Lennart Bengtsson, a well-respected climatologist at Britain’s University of Reading, was rejected by the journal *Environmental Research Letters* after one reviewer found it “harmful” to the global warming cause. The study had found that CO₂ emissions would cause less warming than the climate models predict.

“They’ve threatened him. They’ve bullied him. They’ve pulled his papers. They’re now going through everything they can to smear his reputation. And the ‘they’ I’m referring to is the global warming establishment,” I explained in a 2014 TV interview on Fox News.⁹⁰

Bengtsson was forced to resign from the board of a skeptical organization, the Global Warming Policy Foundation, after he was exposed



The Manmade Climate Change Mafia

Mark Steyn, author of the 2015 exposé on Michael Mann titled *A Disgrace to the Profession*, quipped, “Whether they also left a polar bear’s head in [Bengtsson’s] bed we shall discover in time.”⁹³

to “McCarthy-style pressure” from his warmist colleagues.

The UK *Times* reported that the pressure was so intense on Bengtsson “that he would be unable to continue working and feared for his health and safety unless he stepped down from the Global Warming Policy Foundation’s academic advisory council. He said the pressure had mainly come from climate scientists in the US, including one employed by the US government who threatened to withdraw as co-author

of a forthcoming paper because of his link with the foundation.”⁹¹

A German physicist likened Bengtsson’s joining a skeptical climate foundation to joining the Ku Klux Klan.⁹²

In a 2014 congressional hearing, UN IPCC lead author Richard Tol condemned “the hounding of Lennart Bengtsson,” who has “won many awards in a long and distinguished career in meteorology and climatology.” Because Bengtsson was not promoting climate alarm, he “was insulted by his peers” and “a Texas A&M professor even suggested he is senile.”

As Tol explained, “Other eminent meteorologists have been treated like Bengtsson was—[Judith] Curry, [Richard] Lindzen, [Roger] Pielke Sr. [Roger] Pielke Jr [have] been mistreated too, merely for sticking to the academic literature, as reflected by the IPCC, that there is no statistical evidence that the impact of natural disaster has increased because of climate change.”

Tol himself has “had my share of abuse too. Staff of the London School of Economics and the Guardian now routinely tell lies about me and my work.”

As Tol commented during his testimony before Congress, “Academics who research climate change out of curiosity but find less than alarming

things are ignored, unless they rise to prominence in which case they are harassed and smeared.”⁹⁴

Climatologist Dr. Roger Pielke Sr., professor emeritus at the University of Colorado, lamented the hostile climate for climate research. “From my experience, I agree 100% with the allegations made by the very distinguished Lennart Bengtsson.” He added, “Unfortunately, climate science has become very politicized and views that differ at all from those in control of the climate assessment process are either ignored or ridiculed.”⁹⁵

The late atmospheric scientist and hurricane pioneer Bill Gray noted in 2014, “I am just appalled science has been hurt greatly by this because the government has come in and dictated science, much like Stalin and the Lysenkoism—we have had many examples in history of when the best people in the field of were wrong.”⁹⁶



Not How Great Science Happens

Author Michael Crichton once noted, “The greatest scientists in history are great precisely because they broke with consensus.”⁹⁷ Sadly, when it comes to climate science, conformity to the “consensus” appears to be strictly enforced.



Notes

Bonus Chapter: Intimidating the “Deniers” to Enforce the “Consensus”

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