



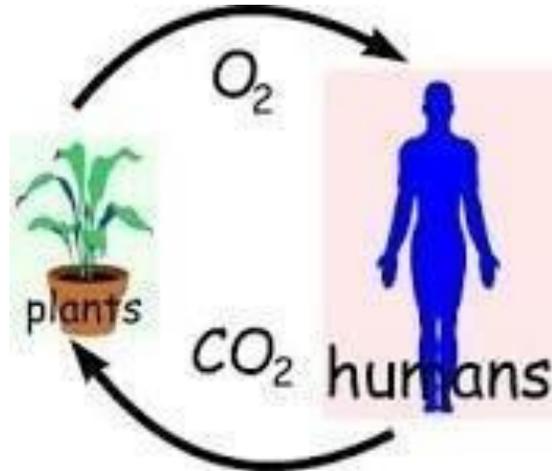
Republican Perspective

By John Littig

Settled Science

Global warming or climate change? Yes, there's a difference in the definitions, but it's a technical one and it's not germane here. So for simplicity I'll stick with the old warhorse, "global warming."

Scientists and others who do not buy in to global warming are routinely derided. They are called deniers and flat-earthers. After all, global warming is (as first Al Gore and now Barack Obama have proclaimed) "settled science." So the believers believe that there's no need to debate the issue. Further, that debate is harmful because it just causes confusion and delays the important work of fighting for the very survival of the planet. Led by the Los Angeles Times, several bandwagoning newspapers have announced a policy against publishing the opinions of those who disagree with the theory that the earth is warming and that you and I are responsible. (Please allow me to use that term "theory" just for the sake of discussion.)



Since you are barraged daily with newspaper articles and TV news stories reinforcing the global warming theory-and none to the contrary-it may come as a surprise that there are, in fact, many meteorologists, climatologists, other scientists, political figures and so on who do not agree. The true believers call them global warming "deniers." The term evokes the ugly odor of "holocaust deniers." But the dissenters call themselves skeptics-a more neutral term, unencumbered by connotations of malevolence or folly.

A group of skeptics convened recently for the Ninth International Conference on Climate Change. There were addresses and panel discussions involving representatives of political entities, business interests and a wide range of scientific disciplines. For example, speakers and panelists included the founder of the Weather Channel; a former Apollo astronaut; American, British and Australian government figures (including one member of the House of Lords); NASA scientists both current and retired; and numerous professors of scientific disciplines such as astrophysics, climatology, geology and so on.

Let's consider some of the positions taken by conferee and keynote speaker Dr. Patrick Moore, a Canadian ecologist.

Moore offered: "I fear global cooling." He says cooling would adversely impact agriculture. Further, he says that "there has been no global warming for nearly 18 years."

Moore says, "CO2 is the most important nutrient for all life on earth." You shouldn't be startled by this; you can remember it from your science classes in high school and even elementary school. But as Moore says, "Our children are not taught logic, they are not taught what the scientific method is,

and they are taught that carbon dioxide is pollution...as if it were soot." And he points out that when life evolved on earth, CO2 levels were 10 times what they are today, yet life flourished. So he concludes that the education system is failing children when it comes to this science.

So who is this Dr. Patrick Moore and why have I singled him out? After all, I could have focused on any one of many other more familiar names among the conferees. I chose Moore because of his environmentalist credentials.

Moore was a pioneering environmental activist and the co-founder of Greenpeace-an early and unfailing flag bearer in the environmental movement. He was a leader in their famous direct action campaigns against whaling and seal hunts.

Moore says he left Greenpeace when it "went anti-human." Moore says that Greenpeace and other radical environmentalists regard humans not as part of the environment but as enemies of the environment.

We are told that global warming is settled science, that debate must stop, that opinions of skeptics should not be listened to or published. The truth is that there are skeptics out there, and that they believe that science should triumph over hysteria.

As seen at the Ninth Annual International Conference on Climate Change, they are not kooks or charlatans, but serious scientists. Such as Greenpeace co-founder Dr. Patrick Moore.