

Republican Perspective
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FEAR MONGERING

“Nuclear power is truly an environmentally responsible source of energy.”
Michael C. Burgess (R) Congressman, TX

The main-stream-media (MSM) frequently reports that President Trump is stoking fear. There is little reporting about the fear spread by far-left environmentalists. International Earth Day is April 22 and is celebrated in over 190 countries. Expect the MSM to genuflect at the altar of the environmental movement and report humankind is destroying the ecosystem. That it is in our power to change nature’s weather patterns if only we forego the comforts of modern living.

The United Nations has been key in promoting global catastrophe. Here is what they said thirty years ago:

From a June 29, 1989, Associated Press dispatch:

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A senior U.N. environmental official says 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. Environment Program, or UNEP.

He said governments have a 10-year window of opportunity to solve the greenhouse effect before it goes beyond human control. As the warming melts polar icecaps, ocean levels will rise by up to three feet, enough to cover the Maldives and other flat island nations, Brown told the Associated Press in an interview on Wednesday.

Coastal regions will be inundated; one-sixth of Bangladesh could be flooded, displacing a fourth of its 90 million people. A fifth of Egypt’s arable land in the Nile Delta would be flooded, cutting off its food supply, according to a joint UNEP and US Environmental Protection Agency study. . .

Shifting climate patterns would bring back 1930s Dust Bowl conditions to Canadian and US wheatlands, while the Soviet Union could reap bumper crops if it adapts its agriculture in time.

Fast forward to today and we are being told of a similar apocalypse. We can be saved if we adopt the Green New Deal (GND). Only if we shed our liberties to the state and to the environmental elite can nirvana be achieved. From the GND: “Our nation – and our world – face a ‘perfect storm’ of economic and environmental crises that threaten not only the global economy, but life on Earth as we know it.” This fear will be spread into our schools from pre-kindergarten to college. Paul Simon’s lyrics ring true: “Still crazy after all these years.”

California environmentalists continue their march to eliminate fossil fuels. Never mind the pollution caused by forest fires. Forests that environmentalists successfully kept from being thinned. In 2006, the Western Governors’ Association “Biomass Task Force Report” accurately predicted the outcome — “In the long term, leaving forests overgrown and prone to unnaturally destructive wildfires means there will be significantly less biomass on the ground, and more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.”

It is troubling that these environmentalists have demonized nuclear power. It's another example of instilling fear. A clean, reliable energy source meets environmental correctness.

A recent opinion piece in the New York Times by Drs. Joshua Goldstein, Staffan A. Qvist and Steven Pinker made a case for nuclear power. They believe climate change is a serious problem requiring urgent action. They support a reduction in the use of fossil fuels. Their research provides an interesting perspective:

Current efforts, including a large-scale buildout of renewable wind and solar power, move in the right direction but can’t get to a full solution and are not nearly fast enough. The experiences of Sweden, France, Ontario, and South Korea show that clean energy can be added at the needed rate for global decarbonization, using a rapid buildout of nuclear power along with renewables. The world can follow this model and decarbonize by mid-century.

Large countries responsible for most of the world’s carbon emissions should sharply increase the role of nuclear power in order to decarbonize their grids rapidly.

Keys to cost containment are to follow South Korea’s example and build the same design repeatedly, with multiple reactors at each site, strong government support, and no design or regulatory changes midway through construction. South Korea can build a reactor for about one-sixth of what the United States currently is doing.

In California, San Onofre Nuclear Plant is closed and Diablo Canyon is scheduled for decommissioning. Expect rises in electricity rates.

On Earth Day, be prepared to hear that imminent destruction of the earth is right around the corner. Be prepared for ever higher taxes to combat climate change.