

Think Before You Vote

The Kerry-Lieberman global warming bill was introduced May 12th in the Senate, and it may very well be debated and passed later this summer or fall about one year after the House of Representative's version, the Waxman – Markey bill – the American Clean Energy and Security Act, was passed last summer. It was gratifying, however, to see that Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) is no longer a co-sponsor of the senate legislation, which should reduce the chances that it will receive bi-partisan support.

Of course the national media has portrayed the Kerry – Lieberman bill as providing us with energy independence and producing a lot of “green” jobs [1], [2]. Additionally, there is an attempt to use the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico as club in order to show that Kerry - Lieberman is one instrument that will “hold polluters accountable” for making a mess of our environment.

But as Senators consider how they will vote on Kerry-Lieberman, they should consider how they might answer their constituents who should ask them, what is it about the science of global climate change that convinces them wholesale regulation of the economy is necessary? Do we need to reduce greenhouse emissions substantially in order to save us from catastrophic human induced global warming?

Maybe it is the “hockey stick” graph that is convincing. The same one that has attempted to demonstrate that climate was relatively stationary for about 1000 years until the 20th century. This is the same graph that has been exposed as a fraud starting with Steve McIntyre and Ross McKittrick in 2003 [3],[4]. The same graph that, to some, is still accepted as solid science in spite of the fact that there are nearly two thousand journal papers which confirm that climate during the last millennium was more variable than the ‘hockey stick’ showed[5]. These papers confirm that there was a medieval warm period and a “little ice age”, and that these phenomena were likely global in reach.

Maybe it is the climate models which predict that global temperatures will rise anywhere from 2° F to 14° F or more over the next century [6]. These same models that have many technical issues that should cast doubt on their ability to forecast climate for the year 2100, issues that have been detailed by many authors (e.g., [7],[8]). What about the predictions of devastating 10 meter or more sea-level rises by some, which have also proved to be exaggerated or fabricated.

Maybe it is the fact that greenhouse gas concentrations are still rising, in spite of the fact that temperatures in the last decade have shown little or no change. Possibly it is the so-called “consensus” among scientists that dangerous climate warming is occurring or about to occur? There are a host of issues that could be discussed here which should cast doubt on the proposition that radical changes in the climate will occur unless humans make drastic changes in our lifestyles in order to fight these changes.

So before the Senate votes to impose far-reaching regulation on our economy and the burdensome costs on their constituents that would certainly follow [9], they should be ready to

explain to their constituents what it is about the science of climate change makes this legislation so necessary for our future.

[1] Daly, M.: Bill aimed to stem global warming, create jobs.

<http://apnews.myway.com//article/20100512/D9FLJMQ00.html>

[2] Samuelsohn, D., Study: Kerry-Lieberman Climate Bill Would Prompt Decade of Job Growth. <http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2010/05/20/20greenwire-study-kerry-lieberman-climate-bill-would-promp-31963.html>

[3] Corcoran, T., 2009: Trouble over tree rings. <http://www.nationalpost.com/related/topics/story.html?id=2365992>

[4] McIntyre, S., and R. McKittrick, 2003: Corrections to the Mann et al 1998 Proxy Data Base and Northern Hemisphere Average Temperature Series. <http://www.multi-science.co.uk/mcintyre-mckitrick.pdf>

[5] Morano, M., 2010: Geologist declares “global warming is over” – warns U.S. Climate Conference of ‘Looming’ threat of global warming. <http://www.climatedepot.com>.

[6] Union of Concerned Scientists report ”*Confronting Climate Change in the U.S. Midwest - Missouri.*” http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_warming/climate-change-missouri.pdf

[7] Lupo, A, 2007: The complexity of atmospheric modeling. <http://icecap.us/images/uploads/complexityatmosmodel2.pdf>

[8] Lupo, A, 2007: The complexity of Atmospheric and Climate Models: Assumptions and Feedbacks. <http://icecap.us/images/uploads/assumptionsfeedbacks2.pdf>

[9] Kruetzer, D., and N. Loris, 2009: Questions on EPA's Cost Estimates for Waxman-Markey Climate Change Legislation. <http://www.heritage.org/Research/EnergyandEnvironment/wm2470.cfm>