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## Mailbag: The case against global warming Heated response

by : C-VILLE Weekly readers

### Heated response

The article "[Hostile Climate: Will Cuccinelli and the anti-science crowd ever learn?](#)" [July 10] by Dan Catalano contains one brief statement with which those more fully informed on the topic of climate might agree. In his reference to a Washington Post article, he notes that it "lays out the case far more cogently than we ever could." The rest of his article validates the truth of this self-assessment.

That Washington Post article "[Feeling the Heat](#)" was written, not by a science writer, but by a self described "opinion writer," who at least did admit to some uncertainties in his various catastrophic climate claims, and incomplete data references. He notes that NASA reports that CO2 levels are 35 percent higher than in 1880, with most of the increase coming since 1960, but neglects to mention that most of the global warming had already occurred before the 1950s. He invokes images of rising sea levels without the benefit of contrary satellite data documenting a recent reduction in sea level rate-of-rise. He mentions polar ice (Arctic and Antarctic combined), but not that they are in relative long-term equilibrium.

Mr. Catalano, and an unidentified "we," seem to have put a thesaurus to the test in finding the maximum number of frightening terms to wordsmith over a lack of scientific data and supporting evidence, "due to limited space." "Willfully ignorant," "criminally negligent," "evidence is irrefutable," and "fighting a losing battle against extinction" terminology casts his article into the political propaganda category, the culmination of which is to launch a diatribe against Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli.

I too have a limited space in which to reply to this article; however, it is possible to enumerate some facts. The Washington Post and Mr. Catalano both use this recent storm to validate man-made "effects on global weather." To date, there is no widely accepted, scientifically validated study to prove the linkage between man-made CO2 and catastrophic climate changes. There has been a 15 year hiatus in the satellite-derived atmospheric temperature rise, even as CO2 levels continue to rise.

The term *derecho* is not new, but was first described by Gustavus Hinrichs in 1888, and was revived by Robert Johns and William Hirt in 1987. NOAA data indicate that Virginia should expect one of these every four years. A powerful one occurred July 4, 1977, during a period of global cooling.

A review of available climate data (although itself often incomplete and inaccurate) back to the 1800s shows that recent U.S. droughts and heat waves are neither new nor extraordinary. The 1930s Dust Bowl era documents temperatures and droughts far more extreme than at present. The Medieval Warm Period (1000 AD-1300 AD) had temperatures the equal or higher of those today. Legal opinions, such as the referenced Washington Appeals Court, do not define scientific validity, but only a legal opinion. Mr. Bumble in Dickens' *Oliver Twist* had his own opinion of the law. The climate is not hostile, but Mr. Catalano appears so.

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