

Attachment 2

Public Health - An Effective Proxy for Climate Change

Daniel Kahneman won the Nobel Prize for research on human judgment and decision making. He has concluded that human-caused, climate change cannot be controlled, because we humans bend information to fit our existing values and prejudices. Fortunately, there is a way around this problem!

The human brain performs at least two major functions that are protective. The intuitive function protects us from sudden threats, like falling objects. The rational function normally protects us from more slowly-developing, complex threats, like drought. The greatest threat to all of humanity is human-caused, climate change. This threat is developing too slowly to stimulate rational response by the majority of humans. That will change. The critical question is whether that change will occur before human-caused, climate change is no longer controllable.

There is at least one climate change mechanism that can render it uncontrollable. Carbon dioxide from fossil fuel combustion is raising the temperature of vast expanses of tundra. Upon melting, this tundra will release immense quantities of methane. Methane is 30 times more powerful than carbon dioxide in causing climate change. To prevent methane release and its horrific consequences, concerted action is required to eliminate fossil fuel use long before it triggers this uncontrollable event.

“Fortunately”, a rationality-awakening situation exists now. It can be used to engage many more in the vital effort of eliminating fossil fuel use. This situation is caused by the toxic (not climate-changing) combustion products of fossil fuels. Like tobacco smoke, they are causing disease, suffering and premature death of friends and family members every day. The evidence is in medical journals, hospitals and living rooms throughout the U.S. For just the effects of exhaust particulates see:

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/graphic-science-health-care-burden-of-fossil-fuels/>

We must widely-publicize this horrific condition and its fossil-fuel cause. That will move to rational action many, who suffer from these diseases, and many others whose loved ones do.

We also must motivate these victims and their loved ones to engage their governments in the enactment and administration of laws that will cause everyone else to replace fossil-fuels with safe energy. This conversion will progressively bring human-caused climate change under control, as an essential “by-product” of the effort to improve public health.

Another beneficial “by-product” will be the improvement of Oregon's economy. All fossil fuels are imported for use in Oregon, resulting in a major and unnecessary outflow of funds. Solar, wind, geothermal and elevated water resources are abundant in Oregon and can become a source of higher-paying jobs for Oregonians. Disclosure of these fact should be used to motivate others. What's not to like about the progressive conversion from fossil fuels to safe energy sources in Oregon?

Please forward this message or send one of your own, which embodies these facts, to everyone you know, starting with physicians. Inform them that elimination of fossil fuel use is at the foundation of preventive medicine. As highly-regarded advisers, physicians saved millions from the horrific effects of tobacco. Their effectiveness in eliminating fossil fuel use will be orders of magnitude greater.

Also send an OpEd, which presents these facts, for publication in the newspapers, social media, newsletters and forums to which you have access.

Thank you for doing this,

Walt and Marielu Eager

(541) 753-5837

eagerwj@centurylink.net