

To the Chairs and Members of the JOINT COMMITTEE ON CARBON REDUCTION, State of Oregon:

The stated policy is no doubt well-intentioned, but it is scientifically and practically flawed. The following uncontested facts indicate 1) that CO<sub>2</sub> is not in control of climate at this time, at these levels, and 2) that we are not in control of CO<sub>2</sub>.

First, there is the natural experiment of 1929-1931, when human production of CO<sub>2</sub> went down abruptly by 30%. Global CO<sub>2</sub> did not decline, and temperatures kept rising until 1941. During the WWII years and afterward, CO<sub>2</sub> stabilized and temperatures declined despite the production of huge amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>. Declined only slightly, but enough to evoke predictions of the Coming Ice Age - see the covers of Newsweek and Time and Science News in the early '70s. Thus, no effect and tremendous cost. And that was world CO<sub>2</sub>, not just Oregon.

Next, there has never been a temperature reversal in the last 500 million years preceded by a CO<sub>2</sub> change. Nor, more recently, did CO<sub>2</sub> change precede the emergence from the Last Glacial Maximum, the temperature plunge into the Younger Dryas, the rapid rise to the Holocene Optimum (with its 280 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>) and the gradual decline since then, punctuated by Minoan, Roman, Medieval and current Warmings, not to ignore the Little Ice Age. In the Eemian, 120,000 years ago, global temperature was 2C higher and sea level was 6 meters higher and CO<sub>2</sub> was 280 ppm.

Not just control but the very notion of causality demands that the cause precede the effect in time. That is not seen here. The confusion of correlation with causation is common, but remediable.

Third, as Arrhenius noted, the CO<sub>2</sub> GHG effect declines exponentially. The first 20 ppm of CO<sub>2</sub> produces 50% of the GHG effect and it declines exponentially after that. We are in the fifth half-life of that decline. So if CO<sub>2</sub> doubles to 800ppm, its GHG effect will increase by 1.4%, totally submerged in the other eight influences on global climate.

Understandably, we are horrified by the prospect of change. Perhaps the Neanderthals were too. But let's remember that 30% of the agriculture increase since 1950 has been attributed to CO<sub>2</sub>. Satellite pictures demonstrate the greening of the earth. CO<sub>2</sub> is also virtually the only GHG in the stratosphere capable of radiating IR out to space.

So CO<sub>2</sub> warms us, and cools us, and feeds us. Let's concentrate on something we can do well - adapt - rather than virtue signalling to no effect.

Yours very truly,  
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