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Subject: GLOBAL WARMING - WHERE IS THE PROOF?

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GLOBAL WARMING - WHERE IS THE PROOF?

Press Release

We provide the following excerpt from a recent *Wall Street Journal* letter to the Editor. (This is in response to a previous article):

Bjorn Lomborg's suggestion that we look for adaptive steps to deal with environmental changes is common sense, whether or not man's activities cause these observed changes ("Global Warming and Adaptability," op-ed, Dec. 12). The real problem is the science, or lack of quality science, regardless of which side of the debate about the cause we find ourselves. This is because the warming problem drives us to find solutions to a cause that is not yet scientifically proven.

Carbon in the form of CO2 is one of the heaviest molecules found in our atmosphere in such large quantities, though not the heaviest. It makes sense that molecules containing carbon (CO2 at about 390 parts per million or 0.039%) would absorb more heat than oxygen (21%) or nitrogen (78%), for example, since both are lighter than CO2. This fundamental idea gives rise to the hypothesis that carbon increases will cause an increase in our planet's average temperature by absorbing more heat from the sun.

Scientists for years have documented changes observed in our environment that are clearly due to temperature changes, and they routinely suggest that the increase in carbon is the cause, without providing additional proof. All of these observations, and all of the temperature measurements, do not prove that the small increase in carbon in the atmosphere is the cause of these temperature changes. This is because alternative causes are not eliminated by simply making such statements.

More importantly, since humans are a source of only a fraction of the carbon, we must ask: Will any effort to reduce our carbon contribution help? Also, how much and at what cost?

Prof. Lomborg makes the statement, Do we: "help the developing world by making drastic carbon cuts?" By saying that, he seems to be suggesting that humans are the cause of global warming. He might contact Prof. Henrik Svensmark, who is nearby at the Danish National Space Institute in Copenhagen, for other causes of climate changes.

Dr. Svensmark has observed that sun spots help to control cloud cover on the earth and in this way more or less energy from the sun is absorbed into our atmosphere, causing warming and cooling cycles. This mechanism has little to do with the carbon changes in our atmosphere, and it is not manmade, nor can it be controllable by man.

So we have two competing hypotheses to explain the past and future cycles of the earth's temperature. Which one is more effective or controlling must be the subject of our collective future research. Let us pause the effort to fix blame solely on carbon while we do more scientific research to correctly identify the mechanisms that cause atmospheric temperature cycles.

(Doug Chapman, North Tustin, CA - Wall St. Journal - 12/24-25/11)

We at RT think that Mr. Chapman is "Spot On". There is a difference between concern about environmental issues that are surely a problem, and suspected problems which bear watching. We think that Global Warming is a real issue and has been for some time but it is an issue that is of concern. But we shouldn't be pushing for societal and economic changes unless there is reasonable certainty that regulatory programs and economic changes will lead to real and measurable environmental improvements.

Until we know what environmental benefits may come, we are best focusing our programs on environmental issues where benefits are not potentially insignificant, but are likely to benefit human health and/or the environment.

- By: Gary R. Brown, P.E.

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