



MEDIA RELEASE

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Congress Still Denying Rise in Global Temperatures *Panel Stacked Against Climate Science*

Washington – Despite headlines this week reporting that 66 of 77 Oklahoma counties have been declared a national disaster area, a key glacier in the Arctic is melting by as much as a three-quarters of a mile a year and the heat-related death toll has reached 144, the GOP-led Congress continues to host witnesses who deny the relentlessly forthcoming evidence that global temperatures are on the rise.

The original list of invited witness pulled together by Chairman Jim Talent (R-MO) for today's House Committee on Small Business hearing entitled "Global Warming – Does it Make Sense" only included scientists whose credentials or credibility have been endlessly drawn into question. Dr. Bob Watson who chairs the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Dan Lashof of the Natural Resources Defense Council have since been invited to testify at the hearing. Still, the majority of witnesses are global warming skeptics, including:

Dr. Patrick Michaels of the Cato Institute, a vocal skeptic who opposes action on global warming, receives funding from a number of corporate interests who share his views. Among them are the Edison Electric Institute, the German Coal Mining Association and the Western Fuels Association.

Dr. John Christy of the University of Alabama is a leading proponent of the "global cooling" theory. His inaccurate read of satellite data has been disputed by research from the National Center for Atmospheric Research that shows surface area data pointing to rising global temperatures.

Dr. Fred Singer of the Science and Environmental Policy Report is often cited by skeptics as the lead voice on how global warming is a myth despite not having published original peer-reviewed research on global warming in over two decades.

Dr. Marlo Lewis represents the Competitive Enterprise Institute, a pro-industry think tank funded by the American Petroleum Institute, Dow Chemical, General Motors and Texaco (to name a few).

"It is a travesty that we are faced with another hearing featuring to GOP's 'tried and true experts' who will predictably urge us to ignore the evidence that global warming is upon us," said John Passacantando, Executive Director of Ozone Action.

This weekend President Clinton released \$100 million in emergency funds to the 11 hottest states. In his Saturday radio address he said, "We are facing squarely the problem of global warming -- but there are still some in Congress who would rather pretend it doesn't exist."

Passacantando added, "with the extreme weather of 1998 breaking records every day, we need to begin discussing how we move from short term relief plans for disaster-impacted areas like Texas, Oklahoma and Florida, toward a longer term plan for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases."

Dr. S. Fred Singer, Science and Environmental Policy Project

Dr. Singer has ***not published original peer-reviewed research on global warming for over two decades***. Dr. Singer has had great success in publishing letters to the editor, but these are just opinions and not facts and should never be confused with peer-reviewed research.

Dr. Singer often uses the watery allegation that global warming is a myth and that even if it is true, humans are not to blame. He further confuses his point by stating that if global warming is true, then it would actually be beneficial.

Dr. Singer's claims are not unlike those of the tobacco scientists who told us smoking would not cause cancer. Dr. Singer is part of a very small minority of scientists who are of the opinion that climate change is not happening – an opinion they fail to back up with peer reviewed research.

Dr. Marlo Lewis, Competitive Enterprise Institute

The Competitive Enterprise Institute is a well known pro industry think tank that receives a great deal of its funding from the fossil fuel related companies and groups. Those include:

- American Petroleum Institute
- Amoco
- ARCO
- Dow Chemical
- Ford Motor Co
- General Motors
- Texaco
- Cigna Corp

The Christy Chronology: My Two Wrongs Make Me Right

1. In January 1998 Christy and Spencer submitted a paper to the Journal of Climate stating that they had made all necessary corrections to the MSU temperatures and the data were extremely accurate.
2. In February, we informed them that their data were significantly flawed because they had not accounted for orbit decay. This was a complete oversight on their part. They acknowledge their mistake and were seriously concerned.
3. Three days later, John Christy found a totally new correction (heating of the spacecraft by the sun) that just happened to completely cancel the orbit decay correction and then said they were right after all: their data shows cooling. I am very skeptical.
4. The balloon data are notoriously inaccurate and show neither cooling nor warming.
5. We now have a new satellite data set of atmospheric water vapor that correlates extremely well with sea surface temperature (the same sea surface temperatures Spencer and Christy claim are flawed). Both the vapor and sea surface temperatures show warming. These results will become part of new scientific literature.

Dr. Patrick Michaels, Cato Institute

Dr. Michaels has received funding from the following fossil fuel interests:

Fossil Fuel Funding:	Funding Amount
Anonymous	\$50,000
Cyprus Minerals Company	\$40,000
Edison Electric Institute	\$15,000
German Coal Mining Association	\$49,000
US Department of Commerce	\$135,000
Undisclosed Industry Sources	\$167,000
Western Fuels Association	\$63,000

Dr. Michaels is also the chief editor of the *World Climate Report*, which is published and funded by Western Fuels Association, Inc. This publication provides a very loud platform that is out of proportion to the dearth of supporting evidence for skeptic scientists, like Dr. Michaels, who claim that there is no scientific link between human activities and climate change.

Dr. John Christy, University of Alabama

Dr. John Christy disputes the facts about global warming by claiming that there is controversy about the **very real increases in the earth's temperatures**. Dr. Christy is confusing his personal contrarian agenda with the facts.

There is no debate that the data collected shows an unmistakable increase in global surface temperatures, *including over land*. Dr. Christy's assertions about the "cooling" satellite record are inaccurate as well. According to Dr. Kevin Trenberth, an atmospheric scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, the satellite data is flawed in three major ways:

1. It is made up of data segments from eight different satellites. The satellites periodic replacements account for the *apparent cooling* trend.
2. This argument conveniently ignores other more reliable satellite records that show **rising global temperatures** for the same period.
3. It ignores the much longer surface record of rising temperatures and the related evidence such as the melting of glaciers almost everywhere in the world.