



**WESTERN
FUELS
ASSOCIATION
INC.**

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Fuel Supply
Cooperative*

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**PRESS
MATERIAL**

**WALL STREET JOURNAL WRITER
ERRS IN ASSERTION OF "NOT MUCH
SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT" FOR "GREENING"**

(Arlington, VA — April 16, 1998) *The Wall Street Journal* today published in its Politics & Policy section an article by John Fialka using the headline "Global-Warming Debate Gets No Consensus in Industry." While straight-forward and accurate in its quotations and portrayal of the contrasting views of British Petroleum chief executive John Browne and those of Western Fuels Association general manager and chief executive officer Fred Palmer, Fialka committed a serious error in editorializing "there is not much scientific support for Mr. Palmer's position." Palmer has today written to the *Wall Street Journal* responding to Fialka's allegation [copy attached].

In his response, Palmer cites *The Wall Street Journal* itself for evidence to the contrary. In it's December 4, 1997 edition appeared an op-ed by Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine chemists Arthur B. and Zachary W. Robinson entitled "Science Has Spoken: Global Warming Is A Myth" in which they wrote:

What mankind is doing is moving hydrocarbons from below ground and turning them into living things. We are living in an increasingly lush environment of plants and animals as a result of the carbon dioxide increase. Our children will enjoy an Earth with twice as much plant and animal life as that with which we are now blessed. This is a wonderful and unexpected gift from the industrial revolution.

This supports Palmer's central premise that "having more CO₂ in the atmosphere will be good, not bad. It will lead to greater diversity of plants, more abundant crops, more animals" as does a vast body of research conducted by nearly 500 scientists from around the U.S. and the world, in government and out.

(more)

“The reason my message resonates with normal people is that it is scientifically correct,” Palmer wrote *The Wall Street Journal*. “The empirical data gathered from observation and presented in my speeches is internally consistent with the anticipated outcome. By contrast, ‘there is not much scientific support’ for Vice President Al Gore’s vision of apocalyptic global warming rooted in flawed computer forecasts of changes in climate.”

In October 1991, Western Fuels Association released a videotape, *The Greening of Planet Earth*[®], which contains interviews with nine scientists about their research into the effect of rising concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere on plant life and other biota. Popularity of the video – of which over 20,000 copies are in circulation worldwide – persuaded Western Fuels to create a new entity, Greening Earth Society, to help educate people about this frequently overlooked (and often dismissed, though very real) aspect of the climate change debate. It was announcement of Greening Earth Society’s April 21st press conference which apparently stimulated Fialka’s interview of Palmer.

Western Fuels Association is a cooperative enterprise operating on a not-for-profit basis to provide coal for the generation of electricity by consumer-owned electric utilities throughout the Great Plains, Rocky Mountain and Southwest states, and in Louisiana. Western Fuels’ 23 member/owners are rural electric generation and transmission cooperatives, municipal utilities, and other public power entities.