

## **Climate change deniers join dubious minority**

Thank you for publishing the Associated Press's fine article on the National Climate Assessment report. However, you edited important information out of the original article which could have helped readers understand the motivation of those who dismiss the report. One critical sentence you deleted concerns the Cato Institute, which said the report is biased: "The Cato Institute is a libertarian think tank co-founded by Charles Koch, one of two brothers whose multibillion-dollar fortune is partly derived from fossil fuels, and who deny the effects of climate change." Readers would have understood that the Cato Institute is part of the climate change misinformation campaign that Koch Industries and some other fossil fuel companies are waging to prevent the public from demanding Congress pass climate-change legislation.

Here is another interesting piece of information. According to polls, 25 percent of Republicans say global climate change is a major threat. However, 65 percent of Democrats say the same.

The only countries where polls registered similar or lower concern about climate change than Republicans were Pakistan and Egypt. In contrast, the outlook of Democrats and independents parallels the level of concern in Europe, Australia and Japan.

Why do Republicans share an attitude toward climate change with countries often characterized as impoverished third world nations? Why don't they align with the mainstream views held by our long-standing allies? Who or what is influencing Republicans to such unusual, extreme views?

As climate change intensifies, how will Republican

candidates fare in national elections?

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