

Climate change ‘risk’

Nicolas Loris has a difficult job: He writes anti-climate change policy articles at a time when more conservatives are abandoning that view (“The Donald does right thing by dumping Paris pact,” June 5). After all, even if there is only a 10 percent chance that climate change leads to catastrophe, conservatism would lead to the support of policies that ensure against possible worst-case outcomes.

Loris writes at the Heritage Foundation, just like Jerry Taylor used to write anti-climate policy articles at the Cato Institute. Both organizations have ties to fossil fuel businesses and seek to stall climate policy.

Before leaving Cato, Taylor had a change of heart. In part it came from talking with a former chief of Goldman Sachs’ risk analysis operations — who argued that climate change risk is no different than financial risk. Just as investors guard against uncertain financial risk, our national climate policy must guard against risky outcomes as well.

Taylor went on to found a libertarian think tank, the Niskanen Center, which advocates that Congress enact a national carbon fee. This would put a cost on pollution.

— Judy Weiss, Brookline

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