

Climate science proven beyond doubt

Tom Harris suggests intellectuals are obligated to speak publicly upon seeing “fundamental errors in thinking in the climate debate. The stakes are too high to accept anything less.”

You betcha! For years, I've been speaking as a Citizens' Climate Lobby volunteer. A rabbi with a doctorate in Bible, I teach text, theology, and philosophy. I also write letters to newspapers urging Congress to enact a carbon tax fully rebated to the public. This policy corrects a basic flaw in fossil fuel pricing that allows fossil fuel users to pollute for free. A carbon pollution tax levels the playing field for clean energies, allowing the free market to decide equitably between energy options. Economic studies show this policy will reduce emissions while sustaining economic growth.

Harris also says, “the belief that scientists discover truths ... should be publicly refuted by intellectuals. Truth applies to mathematics but never to our findings about nature which are merely educated opinions based on scientists' interpretations of observations. Since observations always have some degree of uncertainty, they cannot prove anything true.”

My husband, a mathematician, specializing in probability theory and data analysis says: “Nonsense. The law of gravity isn't known with 100 percent certainty. We accept gravity as true because we're satisfied with 99.9999 percent, and even much lower standards. Climate science has passed the point of certainty, ethically requiring global action.”

Low gas prices give Congress an opportunity to enact legislation and send U.S. delegates to Paris with negotiating power. Find out about CCL's Pathway to Paris proposal.

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