

Divided ideology

David Baker's important article ("Climate change divides oil CEOs") considers why climate change divides U.S. big oil CEOs from their counterparts in Europe, Japan and South America. The answer he reasonably offers is that in Europe, climate change is an established scientific fact creating considerable risk for us, but strident American ideologies allow a false debate to prevent us from recognizing that climate change is a fact. We're still debating the science simply due to ideology.

The famous playwright Eugene Ionesco wrote: "Ideologies separate us. Dreams and anguish bring us together." It's time for Europe's big oil CEOs to come to Washington, D.C., and talk to Congress about their dreams for their grandchildren's futures, particularly their anguish over what climate change is doing to their national landscapes and wildlife, to their coastal cities, and to their food supply. Ideology won't divide our country and our Congress forever if we help shared dreams and anguish bring us together.

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