

Eager to refute, scientists agree on climate

A letter on April 16 ("[Public swayed by alternative facts on climate](#)") argued that the scientific consensus on human-caused climate change may be fake — like gold-plated lead hyped as gold.

However, if any scientist had good data and solid analysis that differed from the consensus, she would earn a reputation and job offers far more valuable than gold.

As a scientist's wife, I see scientists as immensely competitive hard workers. They work, alone or in teams, to find weaknesses in each other's work, whether the work is part of established consensus thinking or a revolutionary outlook. Climate skeptics feel scorned, but their writings are scrutinized seriously. One graduate student spent a decade finding errors in one famous skeptic's published paper until that paper was refuted. The consensus on climate change is amazing because competitive people freely agree and now only argue about details.

Any reader uncertain about human-caused climate change could mull these facts:

MunichRe, the world's largest reinsurance company, studies extreme weather. Doing so is essential to its business. It reported: "In Europe, we've seen a steep increase in flood events related to severe convective (thunder)storms. ... The trend is ... following a pattern that will be significantly determined by manmade greenhouse gas emissions." Its spokesman concluded: "It is amazing how closely these developments fit with the outcomes of climate models."

Exxon, with many other major oil companies, acknowledges that burning fossil fuels is a prime cause of current climate change. Energy is its business, and it has endorsed national carbon taxes as the best way to transition from high carbon-intensive fossil fuels to lower emissions.

In 2015, Citibank compared the costs of investing in renewable-energy infrastructure to the costs of continued fossil-fuel use. Without considering the costs of extreme weather disasters, Citibank concluded it's cheaper to build renewable infrastructure now than use fossil fuels.

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