

House committee on climate change biased

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Regarding “Climate change, storm link denied” (News, Dec. 12), covering the U.S. House committee hearing on climate change: Roger Pielke Jr., director of the Center of Science and Technology Policy Research, testified that climate change isn't implicated in strong tornadoes nor other severe weather. The article said the committee hearing evidence from Pielke has a strong bias. The committee's goal is “to debunk oft-cited claims that climate change has contributed to severe droughts and storms in recent years.”

Since the committee seeks to debunk climate change warnings, it invited only carefully selected witnesses who would help them dismiss connections between climate change and severe events. Imagine how much the committee could learn about climate change if members' goal was educating themselves about climate change for the purpose of protecting Americans. They might learn that NASA computer models for climate change can help scientists predict the effects of climate change for local regions so agencies can plan better defenses and better resiliencies. The committee might also learn to have more respect for the dangers that climate change presents to us and the world, and thus would take its task more seriously.

When issues of life and death are at stake, we have a duty to act with extra mindfulness. Committee members should set aside their biases in order to fulfill their duty to preserve life.

Judy Weiss, Brookline, Mass.

Weiss is a member of Citizens Climate Lobby, which supports a carbon tax on fossil fuels.

<http://newsok.com/house-committee-on-climate-change-biased/article/3916152>