

Krauthammer's climate change column off-base

Posted Nov. 24, 2014 @ 6:04 pm

Charles Krauthammer's Nov. 22 column, "The climate pact swindle," was terribly misleading.

I read it upon returning from teaching in Connecticut. A seminary had asked me to speak to students, faculty and alumni regarding what clergy need to know about climate change and community activism.

They learned "the science is settled" means climate researchers have concluded that current global warming is caused by fossil fuel use. Krauthammer wrongly insists the science isn't settled because we cannot "predict with accuracy future global warming." Scientists don't claim to know every future detail, only that current warming is caused by fossil fuel use.

I helped members of the clergy understand that scientific uncertainty currently centers on whether warming will reach 4, 6 or 12 degrees centigrade this century. That is, will global warming be bad or catastrophic, this century.

I also helped them understand America will only reduce emissions adequately if Congress passes legislation charging emitters for their emissions. Congress can impose the same charge on imports from countries that don't reduce their emissions "contemporaneously and commensurately" with the U.S. — no treaty is needed if only Congress would act.

If Krauthammer doesn't like the U.S.-China deal, let him call on Congress for legislation. It's more mature behavior for a psychiatrist than slinging insults at the president of the United States.

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