

More on 'Noble Lies'

Dear Editor,

Tom Harris' article on "noble lies" provides an excellent example of progress. Just two years ago, climate change deniers like the Heartland Institute responded to climate scientists with a billboard claiming climate scientists are like the unabomber.

Next a reputable conservative journal, the National Review, published a comment comparing world-class climate scientist, Michael Mann, to a child molester. Viciousness does not further rational, constructive discourse.

But Tom Harris, director of an organization with financial links to the Heartland Institute, improves public discourse. Although Harris repeats misinformation saying there is no evidence for climate change, and humans have no effect, nonetheless he speaks respectfully about his opposition. Citing Plato, Harris attributes to his opposition the noble motive of wanting to tell a white lie to the public to encourage pollution reduction, energy conservation and other actions to enhance our world.

I encourage him to take one more small step for mankind. He should credit his opposition with the noble motive of wanting to provide accurate information to people open to hearing it (not white lies and not exaggerations). To those unwilling to accept climate change, we say "Even if you reject climate change now, nonetheless, let's lower emissions as insurance in case the science is right."

We have insurance to protect us in case of all types of unexpected disaster. If 97% of scientists say we face disaster if we don't reduce emissions, then reducing emissions is reasonable insurance.

Let's buy insurance with legislation to lower emissions.

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