

Pence still has wiggle room

Seth Slabaugh prepared an excellent review of Gov. Mike Pence's statements about climate change from the past 15 years – which ranged from asserting human-caused climate change is a myth to acknowledging in September 2016 that human activities, without question, have some impact on the climate. Pence's staff probably had various reasons not to explain what changed his mind.

One problem with his latest position is the word “some” – it's there to give Pence wiggle room, allowing him to still withhold support for serious action. Yet scientific studies and measured data demonstrate that human activity caused approximately 100 percent of the warming measured since 1950.

Pence threw in “some” to understate the efficacy of emissions reduction, and to allow him to overemphasize the economic costs of current federal policies. However, if Pence and other Republicans truly dislike Obama's regulatory climate policies, they can urge our Republican-controlled Congress to enact an economy-safe, household-friendly, non-regulatory climate policy. It's approved by conservative/libertarian politicians, and think tanks – as well as major oil and gas companies and nearly all economists. It's not enough for Pence to say we're causing climate change but then criticize Obama's efforts. It's time for Pence and other politicians to establish solid, responsible American climate policy.

Readers should please vote this year with climate change as their top priority. Don't send someone to the White House, Congress or state legislature who won't support economically-equitable climate legislation.

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