

Climate change: We know enough to take action

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Leonard Franckowiak's recent article, "If our climate isn't perfect, why stop change?" reminded me of Saturday Night Live's Roseanne Roseannadanna, who responded to letters saying, "Mr. Feder, you sure do ask a lot of questions for a guy from New Jersey." Mr. Franckowiak asked a lot of questions that can be summarized with his opening words: "It sure would be nice to know enough about climate change to understand."

Here is what readers need to know: The science of gravity isn't understood in every jot and tittle. But it is settled enough that we accept gravity exists. Today, the science of climate change is settled to the same degree gravity is settled. There are still questions to be resolved, but scientific data and theoretical analysis have coalesced and, without question, the climate is changing due to human influences.

Mr. Franckowiak mocks scientists, mocks 80 percent of the American public who want more government action on climate change and mocks newspapers that cover the subject. He mocks by claiming thousands didn't die from ozone holes. But he fails to remember that President Reagan accepted the science of CFC emissions and instituted a cap-and-trade system to reduce CFC emissions, protect the ozone and prevent a skin cancer epidemic.

Now, people are worried about climate change, and he mocks us because ozone holes weren't a problem. Roseannadanna's answer would be: "Well, Leonard, it just goes to show you, it's always something — if it ain't one thing, it's another."

Readers should please urge Sens. Bob Casey and Pat Toomey and Rep. Michael Fitzpatrick to sponsor bipartisan climate change legislation following the best advice of the National Academy of Science and NASA's top climate scientists. Otherwise, Gilda Radner will call to us from heaven, "What are ya tryin' to do, make me sick?!"

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http://www.buckscountycouriertimes.com/opinion/letters/climate-change-we-know-enough-to-take-action/article_31fdf9c7-925c-59ce-bcf8-f1f709887e14.html