

## **The Facts on Climate Change**



### **WFB Policy on Climate Change**

**We believe that climate change is a natural occurrence. Focusing on greenhouse gas emissions, especially carbon, does not address the impacts of natural climate variability, nor does it recognize the fact that carbon dioxide is a key component to agricultural productivity and efforts to provide sufficient food to feed the world and reduce world hunger.**

**We also find that the political debate has shifted to finding ways to adapt to potential impacts of climate variability. In any adaptation efforts directed by the state, it is essential that agricultural practices be recognized as a benefit.**

## The Issue:

Government action is moving Washington toward capping the emission of greenhouse gases to stop the climate from changing and save our citizens from the impacts of extreme weather events (floods and droughts).

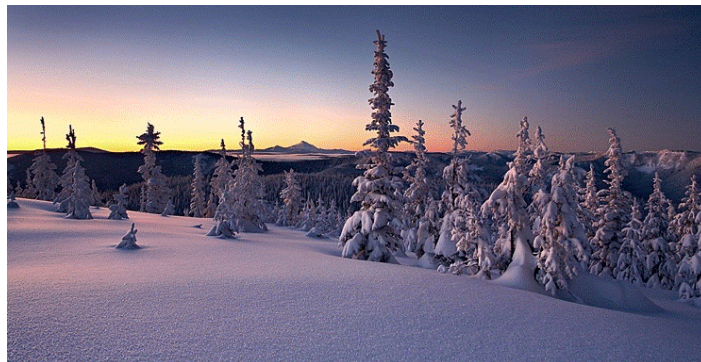


## Before Acting, We Must Ask Ourselves ...

- Has the **data being** used to support natural climate variability **been adequately investigated**?
- Have we **evaluated the consequences** of the currently proposed policies on people and the economy?
- What is a “**green**” **job**? Farmers produce and cultivate plants at a high rate – isn’t that green? Yet the state does not think so. Why?
- Is it better to **invest in infrastructure and technological improvements** to minimize use of fuel and provide protection from the effects of natural climate variability **or** develop a **costly government program** to change the climate?

## Did You Know...

- ⇒ Contrary to popular belief, **trends do not show** out of control **temperature increases**.
- ⇒ The fact is, it was **7 degrees warmer** in the **13<sup>th</sup> century** when Greenland was “green.”
- ⇒ **Climate variability** has occurred in a **predictable** 1500 year cycle that coincides with solar activity.
- ⇒ More than **31,000 scientists** (at least 620 of which are from Washington) **do not agree** that climate variability is **human caused**.
- ⇒ **Models** predicting climate change scenarios are **not accurate** for **current** weather patterns and thus **future** patterns are **suspect**.
- ⇒ **Plants “breathe” carbon dioxide (CO<sup>2</sup>)**, removing it from the atmosphere and replacing it with water and oxygen.
- ⇒ Higher levels of CO<sup>2</sup> actually **increase plant growth** which **enhances agriculture’s ability to feed** the world and eliminate hunger.
- ⇒ **Reducing greenhouse gases** to preindustrial levels **will not preclude** sudden climate shifts as evidenced by thousands of years of data.
- ⇒ The **technology** to reduce CO<sup>2</sup> levels **by 50% does not exist** and would be **cost prohibitive** to develop.
- ⇒ To achieve a **50% reduction** in carbon dioxide **emissions from vehicles** the average person in the U.S. would be **limited to 3 gallons** of gasoline per week.
- ⇒ **Shutting down all coal-fired power plants** in the United States would only **reduce U.S. emissions by 33%**, while **eliminating 50%** of all **generating capacity**.



## What Are Scientists Saying?

“The polar bear story teaches us three things: we hear **vastly exaggerated and emotional claims** that are simply **not supported by data**.....**polar bears are not the only story**...there are many species that will do better in warmer climates and **our worry makes us focus on the wrong solutions**.....if we want to save more polar bears, more would be saved by not shooting them than by stopping global warming.”

*Cool It*; pp. 8-9  
Bjorn Lomborg

"The present global warming is hardly unique. It is arriving **pretty much "on schedule."**

*Dissidents Against Dogma*  
Alexander Cockburn.

## What About the Costs?

**"Adopting policies ahead of science and at the risk of pushing business offshore, however, could be costly."**

Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski at a  
2008 energy summit.

**"Now is not the time to be talking about tax increases."**

Governor Gregoire during the  
2008 Washington governor's debate.

## What Should We Do?

Public policy makers must take full stock of the issues, **count the costs**, and assess any real benefits before taking action. Policy must be based on **fact not fear**.

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