Letter from a well known UConn Emeritus Physics Professor

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It has been often said that the “science is settled” on the issue of CO2 and climate. Let me put this claim to rest with a simple one-letter proof that it is false.

The letter is s, the one that changes model into models. If the science were settled, there would be precisely one model, and it would be in agreement with measurements.

Alternatively, one may ask which one of the twenty-some models settled the science so that all the rest could be discarded along with the research funds that have kept those models alive.

We can take this further. Not a single climate model predicted the current cooling phase. If the science were settled, the model (singular) would have predicted it.

Let me next address the horror story that we are approaching (or have passed) a “tipping point.” Anybody who has worked with amplifiers knows about tipping points. The output “goes to the rail.” Not only that, but it stays there. That’s the official worry coming from the likes of James Hansen (of NASAÂGISS) and Al Gore.

But therein lies the proof that we are nowhere near a tipping point. The earth, it seems, has seen times when the CO2 concentration was up to 8,000 ppm, and that did not lead to a tipping point. If it did, we would not be here talking about it. In fact, seen on the long scale, the CO2 concentration in the present cycle of glacials (ca. 200 ppm) and interglacials (ca. 300-400 ppm) is lower than it has been for the last 300 million years.

Global-warming alarmists tell us that the rising CO2 concentration is (A) anthropogenic and (B) leading to global warming.

(A) CO2 concentration has risen and fallen in the past with no help from mankind. The present rise began in the 1700s, long before humans could have made a meaningful contribution. Alarmists have failed to ask, let alone answer, what the CO2 level would be today if we had never burned any fuels. They simply assume that it would be the “pre-industrial” value.

* The solubility of CO2 in water decreases as water warms, and increases as water cools. The warming of the earth since the Little Ice Age has thus caused the oceans to emit CO2 into the atmosphere.

(B) The first principle of causality is that the cause has to come before the effect. The historical record shows that climate changes precedeCO2 changes. How, then, can one conclude that CO2 is responsible for the current warming?

Nobody doubts that CO2 has some greenhouse effect, and nobody doubts that CO2 concentration is increasing. But what would we have to fear if CO2 and temperature actually increased?

* A warmer world is a better world. Look at weather-related death rates in winter and in summer, and the case is overwhelming that warmer is better.

* The higher the CO_2 levels, the more vibrant is the biosphere, as numerous experiments in greenhouses have shown. But a quick trip to the museum can make that case in spades. Those huge dinosaurs could not exist anywhere on the earth today because the land is not productive enough. CO_2 is plant food, pure and simple.

* CO_2 is not pollution by any reasonable definition.

* A warmer world begets more precipitation.

* All computer models predict a smaller temperature gradient between the poles and the equator. Necessarily, this would mean fewer and less violent storms.

* The melting point of ice is 0 ºC in Antarctica, just as it is everywhere else. The highest recorded temperature at the South Pole is -14 C, and the lowest is -117ºC. How, pray, will a putative few degrees of warming melt all the ice and inundate Florida, as is claimed by the warming alarmists?

Consider the change in vocabulary that has occurred. The term global warming has given way to the term climate change, because the former is not supported by the data. The latter term, climate change, admits of all kinds of illogical attributions. If it warms up, that's climate change. If it cools down, ditto. Any change whatsoever can be said by alarmists to be proof of climate change.
In a way, we have been here before. Lord Kelvin "proved" that the earth could not possibly be as old as the geologists said. He "proved" it using the conservation of energy. What he didn't know was that nuclear energy, not gravitation, provides the internal heat of the sun and the earth.

Similarly, the global-warming alarmists have "proved" that CO_2 causes global warming.
Except when it doesn't.

To put it fairly but bluntly, the global-warming alarmists have relied on a pathetic version of science in which computer models take precedence over data, and numerical averages of computer outputs are believed to be able to predict the future climate. It would be a travesty if the EPA were to countenance such nonsense.

Best Regards,
Howard C. Hayden
Professor Emeritus of Physics, UConn

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: CONTACT:

April 29, 2014 Joseph D'Aleo

PRESS RELEASE

UNH and Union of Concerned Scientist Report is Wrong on the Facts

14 Prominent Scientists and Academics Refute Claims with Historical Data

CONCORD, NH – Today a group of prominent scientists and meteorologists called into question the findings of a recent study by the Union of Concerned Scientists and the University of New Hampshire, "Climate Change in New Hampshire: Past, Present, and Future."

"It is disappointing that New Hampshire's leading University has chosen to publish a report which is not grounded on actual facts, but on conjecture," stated Joe D'Aleo. "The authors have based all of their findings on the failed climate models. Scientists like Dr. John Christy and Dr. Judith Curry have written extensively on the failure of the climate models and how the projections fall below accepted levels of scientific significance. UNH and the UCS blindly hold to the model forecasts for their projections, despite the models incredibly poor track record.

Citing data from numerous national and global climate resources, the group identified nine specific claims that actual data refutes. This includes claims about extreme weather, changes in New Hampshire's temperatures, reduction in our snowfall and changes in our agricultural production. All of these claims are contradicted by the facts.

"We cannot understand how scientists can use these flawed models as the basis for their projections," continued Mr. D'Aleo. "Just as concerning is how these scientists do not provide policy makers and elected officials a fair and unbiased representation of what is going on with our weather and climate. Our brief report can provide decision makers with a better understanding of our climate through actual data instead of the conjecture provided by UNH and the UCS."

See full report here.

IEA report needs to go on the record

http://instituteforenergyresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Protect-the-American-People.-Moratorium-on-Coal-Plant-Closures-Essential.pdf

Recent events in New England and elsewhere in the U.S. have demonstrated that policies which hurt the U.S. coal fleet are placing the reliability, affordability, and security of America's electric supply system at risk:

- These policies will significantly increase wholesale electric rates – and could increase them by as much as 80 percent – according to Dr. Julio Friedmann, Assistant Secretary for Clean Coal at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).
- Severe economic hardship will be imposed on people who can least afford it – low income families, minorities, children, and the elderly.

Recent experience in New England and elsewhere represents a troubling indication of the implications of removing coal plants from the electricity generation mix:

- Spot prices of natural gas and electricity may spike significantly.
- Utility bills become unaffordable for many families during price spikes.
- Energy shortages could occur.
- What little industry is left in the Northeast may be forced to leave.
- Average electricity rates in New England are already more than 40 percent higher than the national average and may be headed to be 150 percent higher.

New England is merely the precursor to the national problem which is emerging.

With the projected closure of 60 gigawatts (GW) of coal plant capacity, virtually the entire U.S. is rapidly reaching the brink of significantly higher prices for electricity and being unable to meet either the summer or winter peak demand for power.

Why Wind Power is Wrong for New Hampshire

Joseph D'Aleo, CCM

January 13, 2014

Wind Power Issues

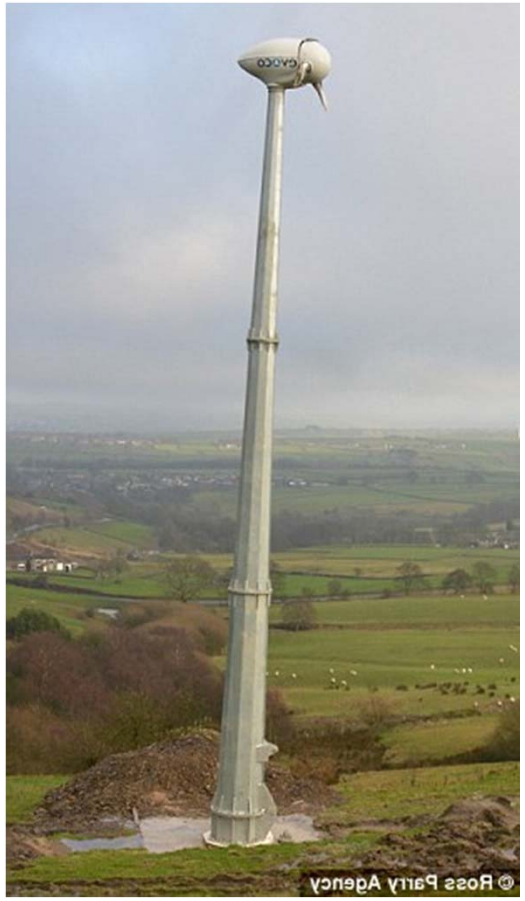
- Vulnerability to ice storms, common in the northeast
- Lightning and hurricane force high mountain winds
- Wind turbines have serious health effects
- Wind turbines will negatively affect tourism, our #2 industry
- Wind turbines devalue property
- Wind turbines affect weather radar and aviation providing false alarms
- Wind has proven to be undependable, often not the when needed the most during extreme cold and heat. Inefficient back up energy increases costs and CO_2 production over more efficient natural gas plants without wind
- Wind would drive up the cost of energy dramatically as it did in Europe, hurting the poor and elderly on fixed incomes
- To limit costs, wind farms are poorly maintained and have shortened lifetimes, with no budget for replacement/repair
- Rising costs of energy is bad for the economy driving jobs away. In Europe this has caused Spain, Germany and soon the UK to stop subsidies as prices and unemployment skyrocketed

Mt Washington Study

FAQ: Why Doesn't the Observatory use Wind Power?

Several years ago a lengthy study was conducted on Mt Washington evaluating the potential to harness wind power. The study concluded that the frequent icing of equipment and the strength and gustiness of the wind at this location was so severe that wind energy would not be a practical or cost effective alternative.

- Fires and blade damage from lighting strikes and extreme winds, are a much higher probability at higher elevations
  - Mt Washington averages 16 thunderstorm days per year. A lightning strike on an unprotected blade can lead to temperature increases of up to 30,000 degrees Celsius, and result in an explosive expansion of the air within the blades
  - Mt Washington frequently gets winds exceeding hurricane force and wind gusts have reached 231 mph.



Scotland wind damage

Icing and Ice Storms

- Major ice storms occur on average every 7 years in the northeast. Ice damage can be very severe to power lines and power poles and turbines.
  - The devastating 1998 ice storm in northern New England and Quebec brought as much as 8.2 inches of ice, left 300,000 people shivering in the dark for a month. Thirty people died in Canada and another 17 in the United States.
  - The storm of 2008 left as many as 1.7 million NH customers without power.
- Heavy ice could lead to major damage to and even the collapse of wind turbines. In Canada's 1998 ice storm, heavy duty towers collapsed under the weight of ice.

Health Impacts

- In Canada, Carmen Krogh, a retired Alberta pharmacist and a group of volunteers surveyed residents in areas near wind farms. Of 76 people who responded to their informal survey, 53 reported at least one health complaint. All across the US, lawsuits have been filed against the wind farms because of these health issues.

- An epidemiology study conducted by World Health Organization demonstrated disturbance by noise and sleep disturbance by noise increased the risk of depression 40%, and 100% respectively. In addition to visual burdens wind turbines create noise pollution which can cause annoyance, stress and sleep disturbance. In light of these statistics it is expected that people may suffer adverse health effects from visual and noise impacts of wind turbines.

Tourism

- Tourism is New Hampshire's second-largest industry. The Outdoor Foundation reports tourism supports 53,000 jobs, generates $261 million in annual state tax revenue and produces nearly $4 billion annually in retail sales and services.

- State parks benefit tourism - *"In a recent survey the Division of Travel and Tourism learned that the main activities associated with New Hampshire were outdoor activities with 90% of them being recreational activities that take part in New Hampshire State Parks. Of those surveyed, 70% agreed that New Hampshire has great state and national parks…provide exceptional opportunities for both residents and visitors travelling from all corners of the globe to enjoy what New Hampshire has to offer whether they are seeking active outdoor recreation, relaxation, or just* ***the natural beauty of our quintessential New England landscape****.* -Lori Harnois, Director, NH Division of Travel and Tourism Development

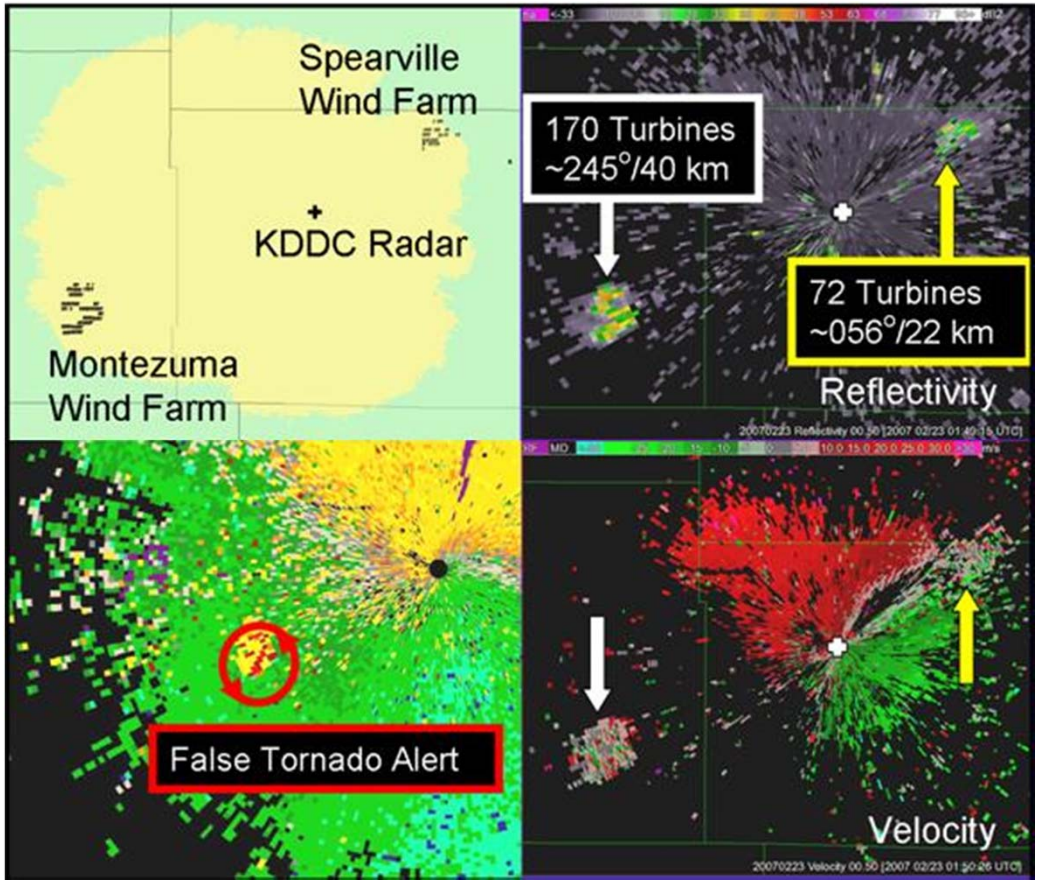
- Plans to dot France with wind farms are facing fierce opposition from critics worried they will blight a landscape that has helped make the country the world's top tourist destination. ...opponents are urging the government to tread carefully so as not to damage France's thousands of kilometers of stunningly beautiful landscapes.

Property Devaluation

- Though proponents of wind pay well for university studies that say wind turbines enhance property value, there is concrete evidence to the contrary.
- In a wind impact study in Dodge and Fond Du Lac Counties in Wisconsin, large turbines (389 feet high) using a literature study, an opinion survey of realtors and sales studies determined that sales were less than outside the areas, and prices were lower. Land values were decreased from 13% to 47% with an average of 30%.

Wind Farms Affect Radar

- The NWS office in Burlington, Vermont has shown how wind farms provide clutter the can trigger alarms that forces the FAA to delay or reroute planes. NOAA has an FAQ on this issue. This confusion causes expensive aircraft re-routing and excess fuel consumption. Boston Center in Nashua could be affected.



Bird/Bat Kill

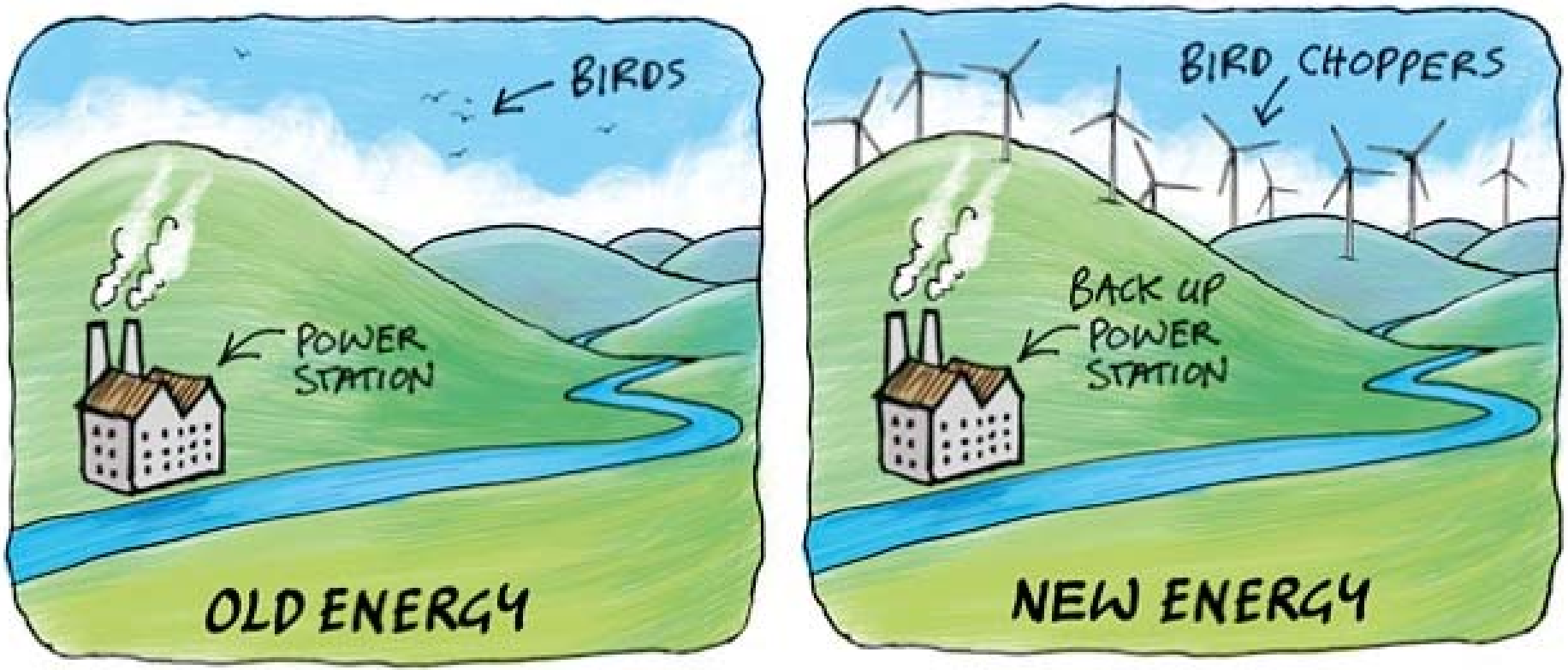
- According to an estimate published in the Wildlife Society Bulletin in March, almost 600,000 birds are killed by wind farms in America each year, including over 80,000 raptors such as hawks and falcons and eagles (Wildlife Society). Endangered and protected species are included. The Obama administration has given the wind industry a pass on bird kill. In its own documents supporting the rule, the US Department of the Interior states: "large soaring birds, specifically raptors, are especially vulnerable to colliding with wind turbines (Barrios and Rodriguez 2004, Kuvlesky et al. 2007)." It also states that it does not know how to solve that problem.

- In New Hampshire winter is peak viewing time for bald eagles along the Merrimack, if they don't fly into the state's ever-growing number of windmills first. A Union Leader editorial wonders how many will be left 30 years from now if windmills keep popping up along New Hampshire's ridgelines.

- Quietly, bats die, as their lungs are inverted by the negative pressures generated behind the 170 mile-per-hour spinning blades. A new study from the University of Colorado, Denver, estimates that 600,000 bats were killed by wind turbines last year alone – could be as high as 900,000. Bats feed on insects that would otherwise destroy crops, and it pollinates as it goes about its nightly tasks.

Wind is Undependable

- When you need it most, wind is often not available or at best intermittent requiring ready back up fossil fuel sources running in inefficient modes.
  - Strongest winds at wind turbine levels are at night when energy demand is less
  - Frigid arctic air masses often cause winds to go calm.
    - In 2009, Black Bear Lake in Maine reached a state all-time record low of -50F with calm winds.
    - In December 2010, when the UK had the second coldest December since the Little Ice Age in 1659, wind produced less than 0.5% of energy needs (when 20% was promised)
    - The same wind power die down in west Texas was observed in a cold outbreak causing brownouts in Dallas and Houston.
  - In heat waves, stagnant air means little wind.
- This December after celebrating the big wind storm in Germany, the wind died and over a week the country had to rely on nuclear and fossil for electricity



'GREENING' THE LAND

Wind is Expensive

- A Heritage study found that swapping one megawatt-hour (MWh) of electricity from coal or natural gas combined-cycle generation to onshore wind drives the cost up from about $79 to $177 per MWh. Offshore wind is worse at $218 per MWh.

- Heritage analyzed a generic RES that starts at 3 percent of total power generation in 2012 and rises by 1.5 percent per year. They found it would destroy 1 million jobs by 2020, when the standard reaches 15 percent. ***The average family would pay $2,400 more per year***.

Improper Maintenance And Security

- In Florida, the *Desert Valley Star* reported in January 2009 that FPL/NER operates 60 wind turbines—and reportedly 40% were "malfunctioning, in disrepair, or need of maintenance."
- *Windtech International* after a survey of 75 wind farm operators in the U.S. in 2008 found that 60% of turbines may be behind in critical maintenance
- Palm Springs keeps turbines more than ½ mile from highways and residences because of the risk of flying broken blade debris from poorly maintained wind farms.
- Renewables UK, an industry trade association, has admitted to 1,500 wind turbine accidents/incidents in the UK alone during the past five years, the *London Telegraph* reported. Those included 300 injuries and four deaths.

Wind is bad for the economy

- In Spain, 2.2 jobs were lost for every green job created and only 1 of 10 green job was permanent. In Italy 3.4 jobs were lost for every temporary green job, Spain ceased subsidization, but the damage had been done. Industry relocated and unemployment reached 27.5%
- In the UK 12 million people are said to be in energy poverty. Many pensioners have had to choose between heating and eating. UK Prime Minister David Cameron has publicly promised to 'roll back' green taxes - *"We've got to get rid of all this green crap."* 280,000 have died from cold and 10,000 from heat. EU has told UK to stop subsidies for renewables
- Even in rock-solid Germany, up to 15% of the populace is now believed to be in "fuel poverty." Some 600,000 low-income Germans were cut off by their power companies. As a result, Germany is building 24 coal fired plants and reinstating some nuclearto provide the back up to the underperforming wind and solar. Blackouts and brownouts are an increased risk.

The EU Walks Back from ‘Green’

- The European Union is on the verge of rolling back much of its climate agenda, even as the United States is moving full speed ahead. “It is becoming obvious that Europe’s unilateral climate policy, the whole green agenda of the last 20 years, has turned into an unmitigated fiasco. Even EU leaders are beginning to accept reality.”
- These green bureaucrats will be replaced later this year by a new set of commissioners who almost certainly will be less green and more concerned about Europe’s economic future and competitiveness. The chances of the green lobby to push through any new binding renewables or climate targets are near zero.
- A new ComRes/ITV poll has revealed that half of those polled disagree, or ‘don’t know’ about whether climate change is “really happening” will no doubt be a blow to the ‘big green’ lobby, that spends tens of billions of pounds worldwide trying to sell the idea of climate change, and its tax-heavy ‘solutions’.