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Is global warming science fiction masquerading as science fact?

Libertarian Party urges U.S. government to reject Kyoto treaty

WASHINGTON, DC — The United States government should refuse to confirm the new global warming treaty, the Libertarian Party urged today, because it represents a massive increase in government power and a huge cost to American consumers — all based on questionable science.

“There is a strong case to be made that global warming is science fiction masquerading as science fact,” said Steve Dasbach, the party’s national chairman. “Because of the *potential* dangers posed by global warming tomorrow, politicians are willing to do real, measurable damage to our economy and our standard of living today.”

The treaty, drafted in Kyoto, Japan, on Thursday by 159 nations, would bind the United States to reduce so-called “greenhouse gases” by 7% below their 1990 levels by 2012.

If the U.S. government confirms the treaty, it could enforce the agreement by imposing heavy taxes on energy or by mandating increased energy efficiency for automobiles and industry — which could cost the economy upwards of \$3.3 trillion, critics charge.

It’s the *theoretical* nature of the dangers of global warming that has Libertarians worried, said Dasbach: “Global warming is a theory based, at this point, on speculative science, imprecise computer models, and a lot of doom-and-gloom rhetoric. The scientific case for global warming is tenuous, at best.” In fact:

- **The scientific evidence doesn’t support the theory that the earth is warming because of human activities.** Since 1979, satellites and weather balloons have recorded a slight cooling trend, with global temperatures falling by .04 degrees.
- **There is no scientific consensus that global warming is a fact.** Earlier this year, *Science* magazine noted: “Many climate experts caution that it is not at all clear yet that human activities have begun to warm the planet.”

Whatever the facts, the good news is that individuals who worry about global warming *can* take action immediately to address the issue, said Dasbach.

“If you’re concerned about the environment, you don’t need a global treaty to force you to do something,” he said. “*Every* American can make a commitment to reduce wasted energy, drive more fuel-efficient cars, and boycott businesses that pollute. We don’t need a treaty to put the environmental concerns of Americans to work to build a cleaner future for our children.”

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