

Ted Cruz, You Might Want to Listen to Some Other Evangelical Climate Scientists

by Neil L. Frank, Ph.D.

Last week [Aaron Daniel Taylor wrote](#) that Republican Presidential candidate Senator Ted Cruz “may want to listen more closely to those evangelicals who supported him on the subject of climate change.”

“The relationship between the burning of fossil fuels and the rise in Earth’s temperature is no longer a matter of correlation,” he said, “... it’s a matter of causation.”

“Fortunately, many evangelicals are ahead of Cruz on this issue,” he said.

But he named only one: Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, whom he described as “an atmospheric research scientist at Texas Tech University and a contributor to the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.” He didn’t mention that she is also associate professor of *political* science, which might suggest caution about the bleed-over of political concerns to her scientific work.

Two years ago Dr. Hayhoe led a group calling itself “Evangelical Scientists and Academics” in sending an open letter to the President and Congress supporting climate alarmism. (The letter was initially posted at the far-Left Sojourners website but was removed. [Google maintains a cached version.](#)) Their press release led some reporters to think they were all climate scientists. One from the prestigious environmental news publication *ClimateWire* asked an acquaintance of mine by email, “Did you expect this collection of 200 Evangelical scientists, *all with degrees in climate science*, to promote their studies with a faith-led banner?”

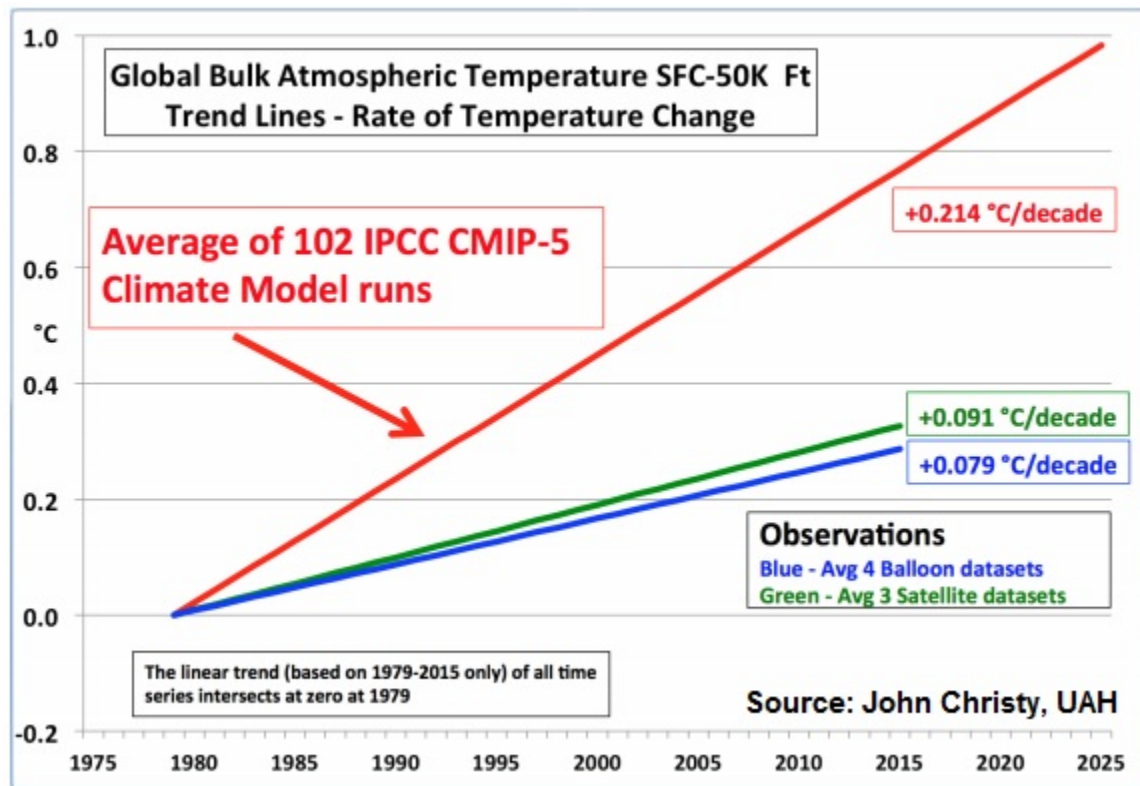
[In reality, only 5 \(2.6%\) were.](#) More evangelical climate scientists were among the authors and reviewers of the Cornwall Alliance’s “[A Renewed Call to Truth, Prudence, and Protection of the Poor: The Case against Harmful Climate Policies Gets Stronger.](#)”

In reality, numerous evangelical Christians with Ph.D. degrees in meteorology are greatly relieved that at least some elected officials like Cruz are making their decisions based on data and facts rather than political pressure. As former Director of the National Hurricane Center and long-time chief meteorologist of KHOU-TV Houston, I’m one of them.

Cruz is aware that satellite data show there has been no warming of the earth for the last 19 years. Yet CO2 levels continue to rise. Could it be that CO2 is not a major factor in determining the earth’s temperature?

This is the opinion of Dr. John Christy, another evangelical, a Lead Author, Contributing Author, and Reviewer of (the same Nobel Prize-winning) IPCC’s assessments, winner of NASA’s Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement, a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society, and a more veteran and accomplished climate scientist than Dr. Hayhoe. On February 2, he [testified](#) before the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology.

Mr. Taylor might take particular notice of this graph and Christy's explanation:



Christy explained: “for the global bulk atmosphere [more important for testing greenhouse warming theory than the surface], the models overwarm the atmosphere by a factor of about 2.5. ... [I]f one focuses on the tropics, the models show an even stronger greenhouse warming in this layer. However, a similar calculation with observations ... indicates the models over-warm the tropical atmosphere by a factor of approximately 3 ... again indicating the current theory is at odds with the facts.”

Taylor states that “2015 was the hottest on record in human history” (emphasis added).

But his statement is based on temperature records from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that go back only to 1880. They cannot tell him about all of human history.

Further, 2015 was the hottest in that record only according to NOAA data that are spatially unrepresentative and contaminated by serious siting and instrumentation irregularities. The much more reliable, because truly global and uncontaminated, satellite and weather balloon data make 2015 only third warmest since 1979. And the range separating the ten warmest years in that period is mostly within the margin of error, meaning any of them might have been warmest.

Since the last ice age ended over 11,000 years ago, there have been a number of times when the earth's temperature was greater than today.

Earth's temperature rises and falls in cycles. Ice core samples from Greenland for the last 10,000 years show a very strong 1,000-year cycle. The earth was as warm if not warmer than today 3,000 years ago during the Minoan Warm Period, 2,000 years ago during the Roman Warm Period and 1,000 years ago during the Medieval Warm Period, when Scandinavians farmed in Greenland for over 300 years.

Right on schedule, we are warm today as we recover from the Little Ice Age (1600–early 1800s).

Over the last 10,000 years the CO₂ levels have been very stable, in the 280 parts per million range. Therefore, CO₂ was not responsible for any of the above warm periods, or for the recovery from the Little Ice Age.

Now the earth has been warming for almost 175 years, and CO₂ levels did not start rising significantly until after World War I. This strongly suggests that the current warming of the earth is, like the earlier ones, the result of a natural 1,000-year cycle, and the contribution from CO₂ is minor.

Many other evangelical climate scientists challenge belief in *dangerous, manmade* global warming (while acknowledging climate change and some human contribution to it), like Dr. Christy's research partner Dr. Roy Spencer of U. Alabama, or Dr. David Legates of U. Delaware, or seven additional evangelical climate scientists (plus hundreds of other scientists and other scholars) who signed "[An Open Letter on Climate Change](#)" to the American people and their leaders opposing belief in dangerous, manmade global warming and the spending of \$Trillions to reduce CO₂ emissions that could better be spent curing disease, fighting hunger, and ending poverty in the developing world.

The great potential tragedy in the man-made global warming debate is the cost. Over the last fifteen years the U.S. has spent \$150 billion dollars on global warming research. The budget for 2014 was \$18 billion, and the President has recently committed \$3.4 billion to an international fund to be distributed to developing nations for green energy.

If protecting human life is the aim, we could spend a small portion of the billions committed to global warming on building electric power plants for the 1.5 billion people in the world who have no power (20% of the world population) or drilling wells for another 2–3 billion who don't have clean water. It is estimated that between 2 and 4 million people die each year because of these two factors, mostly women and children.

Today, perhaps our priority should be to save millions of lives each year, rather than being overly concerned about the potential loss of life centuries from now based on a hypothesis that grossly exaggerates the actual effect of added atmospheric CO₂.

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