

Al Gore's Tax by Januario Azarcon, Esq.

Celebrity singer Sheryl Crow who is an avowed global warming activist says that the science on climate change is settled. That means that those who do not subscribe to Al Gore's sermon must still believe that the earth is flat. Sheryl has an interesting prescription for reducing greenhouse gases. Save the trees by limiting the use of toilet paper. She thinks one square should be enough. Good luck.

Is the scientific debate on global warming and climate change really settled? For non-experts who have taken on climate change as a crusade, there is no more room for doubt. Many scientists however think otherwise.

A survey involving 530 climate scientists from 27 different countries was conducted by two German environmental scientist, Dennis Bray and Hans von Storch in 1996 and 2003 reveal a significant number of climatologists doubt or do not believe that human activity is causing climate change. 55.8 % agreed while 44.4 % disagreed or were uncertain. As to the question whether or not climate models can accurately predict future climate, 46.6% disagreed, 18.3% were uncertain and only 18.3% agreed. Then the question- Can we predict what the climate will do ten years from now? 32.1% agreed, while 53.3% disagreed or expressed no confidence. The number of those who disagreed was even higher, close to 60%, when the prediction period was extended to 100 years.

While the Obama administration is pushing for the passage of the cap-and-trade bill which could cost consumers and business owners billions of dollars in the years to come, we only see politicians dominating the media discussion. So far, there seems to be more politics than science in the cap-and-trade debate.

Pres. Obama has promised that his administration will be open and forthcoming when it comes to information of public interest. Some months ago, there was a report about two scientists at the Environmental Protection Agency who completed a study challenging many of the underlying assumptions adopted by the EPA's in coming up with a doomsday scenario. These two scientists cited recent temperature data and new findings on ocean and solar cycles, atmospheric water vapor and other factors, suggesting that global warming will be much less severe. The EPA must have found these scientists as climate infidels. Their study was swept under the rug. It was not released to the public and not even circulated within the agency.

So who is afraid of a scientific discussion on climate change? Even former Vice President Al Gore has been

dodging challenges to a climate change debate while he rakes in millions of dollars promoting the greenhouse scare.

Cases of politicians lording it over climate experts are not isolated. Patrick J. Michaels was appointed Virginia State Climatologist in 1980. He served under Gov. George Allen, Gov. Jim Gilmore, Gov. Mark Warner and Gov. Tim Kaine. Michaels does not believe that global warming will bring a catastrophe and that we don't really have the means to significantly alter the temperature of the planet. He was stripped of his title as State Climatologist at the behest of Gov. Tim Kaine.

In Oregon, State Climatologist George Taylor of the Oregon State University was told by Gov. Ted Kulongoski (D) not to speak on global warming as his positions interfere with the state's stated goals to reduce greenhouse gases. Taylor challenged the claims of climate alarmists about a 50% decline in Pacific Northwest snowpack. Taylor had to resign.

In Delaware, David Legates of the University of Delaware was told by Gov. Ruth Ann Minner (D) that he could not longer speak on global warming in his capacity as State Climatologist. The Governor was upset because Legates wrote an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court supporting the EPA position then that it was not required to issue regulations reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

In the State of Washington, Assistant State Climatologist Mark Albright was fired because he defied his boss by continuing to e-mail to inquiring journalists or anyone interested- the entire snowfall record for the Cascade Mountains rather than the cherry-picked one.

Before the government starts limiting one square of toilet paper per trip to the bathroom, we need to know why the earth was warmer than today many, many years ago before motor vehicle was invented.. Before we pay more dollars in energy bills, we need to hear the experts who assert that even if this global climate initiative is carried out, it will only reduce the surface temperatures to about one-tenth of one degree Celsius.

In the meantime, watch your wallet.