

Reports from The Heartland Institute's  
International Conference on Climate Change,  
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## **Sununu Addresses Climate Change Conference**

By Dan Miller

John H. Sununu, former governor of New Hampshire and chief of staff under President George H.W. Bush, delivered a keynote address to the largest-ever gathering of climate change "skeptics" in New York City this morning.

Sununu is among more than 80 scientists, economists, and policy experts confronting the subject of global warming at the second International Conference on Climate Change, hosted by The Heartland Institute and 60 cosponsoring organizations.

"Since basic hard science is more difficult to bias, they [resort] to modeling," Sununu said of those who crusade for the theory of man-made global warming. "And since critics will take the time to examine their assumptions, they make the models big, obscure, and full of complex feedback structures much too abstract to debate in a public forum.

"In the past," Sununu said, "when [alarmists] tried some of this on population explosion and global starvation, or global cooling, or their Malthusian vision of a world running out of resources, they were thwarted by nature and technology. Over time, we are confident that nature will thwart them again. Their computer model-generated output may give them the result they want for press releases, but nature is not impressed."

The full text of Sununu's remarks is available online at [http://www.heartland.org/full/24851/The Politics of Global Warming.html](http://www.heartland.org/full/24851/The_Politics_of_Global_Warming.html).

For more information about the second International Conference on Climate Change, including additional proceedings as they are made available by the speakers, visit <http://www.heartland.org/events/newyork09/newyork09.html>. The conference opened Sunday, March 8 and closes at 3:00 pm today, March 10.

## **2009 International Conference on Climate Change: Update #2**

By Dan Miller

NEW YORK -- Former Vice President Al Gore, the most prominent proponent of global warming alarmism, was the target of biting humor and ridicule Monday at the second International Conference on Climate Change.

U.S. Congressman Tom McClintock (R-Calif.) and scientist Arthur Robinson, who has assembled a list of more than 31,000 U.S. scientists skeptical of global warming alarmism, in separate speeches ripped what they saw as Gore's hypocrisy in urging energy conservation while expanding his own carbon footprint and with inconsistencies in Gore's popular movie "An Inconvenient Truth."

The conference, produced by The Heartland Institute and 60 co-sponsors, attracted about 700 scientists, economists, and policy experts to confront the issue, "Global Warming: Was it ever really a crisis?"

McClintock joked he was the first to discover global warming during a grade school trip to a natural history museum, where he deduced dinosaurs were destroyed by warming temperatures. Unfortunately, he said, Miss Conroy, his elementary school teacher, failed to nominate him for a Nobel Prize, "so instead of jetting around the world in a fleet of Gulfstream Fives to tell people they need to feel guilty about driving to work, I have to take the subway. And I don't get paid \$100,000 a speech for my original discovery. But then again, I don't have Al Gore's electricity bills either, so I guess it all balances out."

The congressman also noted that James Hansen, the notorious NASA astronomer who has urged that global warming skeptics face a Nuremberg-style trial for crimes against humanity, in 1971 warned of a coming deadly ice age, but lately has made front-page news by warning of a deadly global warming.

Robinson, who heads the independent Oregon Institute of Science & Medicine, dissected "An Inconvenient Truth" by noting contradictions, much to the delight of the audience.

For instance, he noted Gore produced a chart that he said showed computer models predicted a sharp rise in global temperatures years before computers capable of such projections existed. Another Gore graphic warned of species becoming extinct ... and illustrated the point with woolly mammoths and other species that disappeared eons ago. Robinson ridiculed Gore's contention that Pacific Ocean islanders evacuated their land for New Zealand as ocean levels rose 3 inches.

Robinson defended his oft-cited list of 31,478 scientists who have proclaimed their skepticism of dangerous global warming. The list has been criticized for containing the names of many non-climate scientists. But Robinson said the ranks of sound-science climatologists have been trimmed because some scientists "succumbed to fortune and glory" by spinning their research into global warming alarmism, and thus lost credibility with their peers.

Robinson said with the ranks of climatologists so weakened, the only scientists who can claim "there is no convincing scientific evidence" of dangerous global warming caused by human activity are scientists from fields beyond climatology, such as physics, chemistry, and mathematics -- more than 31,000 of whom signed his petition.

More than 50 presentations were made Monday, including:

- Tom Segalstad from Oslo University in Norway, who noted that the composition of ocean water -- including carbon dioxide, calcium, and water -- can act as a buffering agent in the acidification of the oceans, a relatively new alarm raised by global warming alarmists as data mounts that global temperatures pose little risk.
- Syun-Ichi Akasofu of the University of Alaska, who said Earth's climate is presently in a period of long, slow recovery from the Little Ice Age that ran for 300 or so years and ended in about 1850. The data suggest a large-scale secular trend of about 0.5 degrees Celsius per century of linear rise, punctuated by multi-decade-long oscillations. He said his data suggest the warming may end soon, because by historical standards it should not last for more than about another 100 years.
- David Evans, former researcher in the Australian Department of Climate Change, said computer models of human-caused global warming in models from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change clearly predict the emergence of a "hotspot" in the upper troposphere over the tropics. However, radio temperature data for the upper troposphere clearly show there is no hotspot. The IPCC's assertion of man-made global warming rests on this fundamental prediction, but, said Evans, the hotspot just isn't there.

Evans suggested "the science behind (human-caused global warming) is weak" and consists largely of 45 people peer-reviewing each other's papers, which tends to groupthink on science questions.

- Australian climatologist William Kininmonth said his data show that a doubling of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would produce a temperature change at the surface of about 0.6 Centigrade. By contrast, models favored by alarmists predict a much more shallow energy-loss curve, and hence give an average temperature increase nearly three times higher. He said the difference is significant because it influences predictions of world-wide sea levels.

## 2009 International Conference on Climate Change: Update #3

NEW YORK--Willie Soon, a Harvard University astrophysicist and geophysicist with scores of peer-reviewed papers and books to his credit, said he is "embarrassed and puzzled" by the shallow science in papers that undergird the proposition that the Earth faces a climate crisis caused by global warming.

Soon told the second International Conference on Climate Change here, "We have a system (of peer reviewing scientific literature) that is truly, truly appalling."

Soon's criticisms echoed an earlier presentation at the 2 1/2-day conference that ended Tuesday and was attended by about 700 scientists, economists, and policy makers confronting the issue "Global Warming: Was it ever really a crisis?" John Sununu, former governor of New Hampshire, former chief of staff under George H.W. Bush, and a PhD in mechanical engineering, also lamented what he called the "restrictive distribution of research funds" through government channels.

He called for a "fairness doctrine" to be "applied to the funding of research and to the journal-review and publishing of papers."

Sununu and Soon both said global warming alarmists, particularly the politicians and the few scientists who wrote the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports, have captured the scientific paper process, and in Sununu's words, have been successful in "taking control of who gets funding, who gets published, who gets acclaimed, and who gets demonized."

"What happened to the peer-review process?" Soon asked rhetorically as he reviewed egregious and complex examples of doctored data and sloppy scholarship in global warming alarmist literature.

In a separate presentation, John Theon, retired senior atmospheric scientist at NASA, accused his former underling, James Hansen, of "embarrassing NASA" with his increasingly strident alarms of imminent death and destruction from the effects of global warming. Among other charges, Hansen has asked for a Nuremberg-style trial for climate realists who disagree with his claims of global warming catastrophe.

Theon said some 300 scientists, including Hansen, reported to him when he was at NASA, "but [Hansen] didn't receive the attention from me that he should have."

He noted, for instance, that Hansen, a NASA astronomer, received a six-figure grant from the Heinz Foundation, run by the wealthy wife of U.S. Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), and afterwards, endorsed Kerry for U.S. President. Theon said Hansen's endorsement violated the federal Hatch Act, which prohibits federal employees from endorsing candidates. But Hansen had "too many powerful friends" in Washington, and so far has escaped discipline.

Theon added that since Hansen has engaged literally in many hundreds of interviews in recent years, he clearly has not been muzzled, as Hansen claims.

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