

## A Hoax...

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lated by the idea that human activities may influence global climate adversely, and that therefore corrective action is required by governments. Recent evidence suggests that this concern is misplaced.

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Human activities are not influencing the global climate in a perceptible way. **Geological record shows a persistent 1500 year cycle of warming and cooling extending back at least one million years.** A convenient proxy for temperature is the ratio of the heavy isotope of Oxygen-18 to the most common form, Oxygen-16.

A paper published in *Nature* in 2001 describes the Oxygen-18 data (reflecting temperature) from a stalagmite in a cave in Oman, covering a period of over 3000 years. It shows corresponding Carbon-14 data which are directly related to the intensity of cosmic rays striking the earth's atmosphere. There is a remarkably detailed correlation, almost on a year-to-year basis. The causal connection is quite clear! Since the stalagmite temperature cannot affect the sun, *it is the sun that affects climate.*

If this reasoning is correct, **human-caused increases in the CO2 level are quite insignificant to climate change. Natural causes of climate change, for their part, cannot be controlled by man. They are unstoppable.**

Attempts by governments to control greenhouse-gas emissions are pointless and unwise. Nevertheless, we have state governors calling for CO2 emission limits on cars, city mayors calling for mandatory CO2 controls, and the Supreme Court declaring CO2 a pollutant that may have to be regulated, and every industrialized nation (excepting the U.S. and Australia) signed on to the Kyoto Protocol; and we

have ongoing international demands for even more stringent controls in 2012.

Some advocates of these anti-warming policies are really not quite so serious about them, as one feature of Kyoto is to allow "emission trading" among polluters and among countries that have satisfied Kyoto. This "clean development mechanism" sets up certificates of emission quotas that can be traded (unused) for payment by over-quota users who then can continue to pollute. No reduction in global-warming there. This has become a huge financial racket that may make the UN "Oil for Food" scandal in Iran seem minor by comparison.

Thousands of people benefit from the global-warming scare—at the expense of the ordinary consumer. Environmental organizations such as Greenpeace, the Sierra Club and the Environmental Defense Fund have raked in billions of dollars. Multi-billion dollar government subsidies for useless mitigation schemes are large and growing. Emission trading programs soon will top \$100 billion a year with large fees paid to brokers and those who operate scams. In fact, many have discovered they can benefit from climate scares and have formed entrenched interests.

Another calming voice about climate change is Bjorn Lomborg, the free-thinking Dane who was drummed out of membership in Greenpeace because of his book *The Skeptical Environmentalist* (2001). He is now back with *Cool It*, a book with useful facts and commonsense.

Lomborg believes that global-warming is happening, that man may have some cause, and that national governments need to act. Yet he typifies Al Gore as bordering on hysteria, that pseudo global-warming has been distorted and hyped, and that the Kyoto Protocol and other carbon-reduction schemes are a terrible waste of money. Like Dr. Singer, Lomborg believes that mankind's efforts to slow warming can have only a miniscule effect and that when careful scientific analysis of the global effect is considered, leaving out all the hype and hysteria, that there are some upsides to planet warming and so-called "disasters."

Take rising sea levels—probably a foot over this century. Levels have already risen a foot since 1860, and the world has coped. More people may die from heat, but significantly more people will *not* die from cold. Glaciers will melt, but melting will provide extra water for some of the world's poorest people. More frigid regions such as Canada, Northern Europe, Russia and Mongolia will be clear gainers, especially in agricultural production.

The nations of the world face many difficult problems—poverty, disease, lack of sanitation and clean water, security problems

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## Placer County Catches the Plague

Back in the Light Ages when we in America elected responsible representatives who remained responsible even after they were elected, fiscal restraint was alive and well. Gradually, we entered the Dark Ages in which those in charge of redistributing the people's money became less responsive to those from whom money was extracted and more responsive to groups, institutions and other entities who benefit from government largess.

The descent into the Dark Ages began in liberal states and local governments—at that time California was not among them—and spread, slowly at first, to Washington, D.C., then like an epidemic, successively to more conservative entities.

Placer county was among the last to fall to the disease in which elected officials and their appointees avoid the wrath of recipients of government contributions and favors by restricting spending to income and avoid the wrath of taxpayers and ratepayers by raising taxes and rates of their giveaway programs.

"What process," recent readers of *Tax Talk* may ask, "defines this Black Plague?" The answer, exceeded only by frivolous spending, is borrowing to pay for any government expense incurred by any cause except emergencies such as war and unforeseen disasters.

Government borrowing is not equally malignant. It comes in several degrees of iniquity. Least repulsive is raising money by issuing bonds that require the approval of two-thirds of the voters. Next abominable are processes of issuing bonds that require the approval of less than two-thirds of the voters. The most malevolent is the process of raising money by issuing Certificates of Participation (COP's).

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"If our lifespan is only a day,  
I'm having a cigarette."