

its climate agency “rife with bad practices.” Others like to note that the National Academy of Sciences and the American Meteorological Society have issued statements endorsing the so-called consensus view that man is driving global warming. But both the NAS and the AMS never allowed member scientists to directly vote on these climate statements. Essentially only two dozen or so members of the governing bodies of these institutions produced a consensus statement. This report gives a voice to the rank-and-file scientists who were shut out of the process. So they are very thankful.

Many of these scientists are glad that we have this report so that they now have access to the truth and they can come out from hiding.

The more than 650 scientists expressing skepticism comes after the U.N. IPCC Chairman Pachauri implied that there were only about a dozen skeptical scientists left in the world. Former Vice President Gore has claimed that scientists skeptical of climate change are akin to flat Earth society members and similar in number to those who believe that the moon landing was actually staged in a movie lot in Arizona. It is a shame that proponents have now been reduced to name calling. That is what we are getting now, name calling and insults. When you lose your logic, this is what happens. They start the name calling and insults because they don't have logic.

Examples of consensus claims made by promoters of manmade climate fears: The U.N. special climate envoy Dr. Gro Harmel Brundtland, on May 10, 2007, declared that the debate is over and added that “it's completely immoral, even, to question the U.N.'s scientific consensus.”

The U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change Executive Secretary said it was criminally irresponsible to ignore the urgency of global warming. This was on November 12, 2007.

ABC News global warming reporter Bill Blakemore reported on August 30, 2006:

After extensive searches, ABC News has found no such [scientific] debate on global warming.

While the dissenting scientists contained in the report hold a diverse range of views, they generally rally around four key points. No. 1, the Earth is currently well within national climate variability. We are talking about 650 of the top scientists in the world. No. 2, almost all climate fear is generated by unproven computer model predictions. No. 3, an abundance of peer-reviewed studies continues to debunk rising CO₂ fears. No. 4, consensus has been manufactured for political and not scientific purposes. Those four things, all of these 650 top scientists in the world agree to.

Since I released the report on December 11, other scientists have contacted us to be included.

On December 22, 11 more scientists were added, including meteorologists

from Germany, the Netherlands, and CNN. Even CNN, very much on the other side of this issue, two more of their meteorologists have come over and become skeptics, as well as professors from MIT, the University of Arizona, and other institutions. One prominent scientist added was award-winning Princeton University physicist Will Happer, who was reportedly fired by former Vice President Al Gore in 1993 for failing to adhere to Gore's scientific views. Happer has now declared manmade global warming fears as mistaken. Happer is a professor in the Department of Physics at Princeton University and former director of energy research at the Department of Energy who has published over 200 scientific papers and is a fellow of the American Physical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Scientists, and the National Academy of Sciences. Happer does not mince words when it comes to warming fears. He said:

I am convinced that the current alarm over carbon dioxide is mistaken . . . Fears about man-made global warming are unwarranted and are not based on good science.

As we face a new administration and a U.N. eager to draw the U.S. into its climate policy, let's not forget that this aspect of the debate is still alive and well and only growing. We should not become weary of calling into question policy choices when they are driven by still evolving scientific assessment, especially when the stakes are so high and the costs are so extraordinary. Let us hope this administration and our news media recognize this new reality as we move forward into this new Congress.

On a personal note, it has been a lonely fight. For the last 6 years I have been talking about the Hollywood and media-driven fear that tries to convince us that those who are fueling this machine called America are somehow evil and fully responsible for global warming. This is absurd. We all know better. It does take power to run this machine we call America. In the past, the only argument that defeated all the cap-and-trade schemes was the economic argument. I think you can argue each one differently, saying no, this wouldn't cost the same as adhering to emissions required by Kyoto back in the Kyoto treaty days. But any time you get into a cap and trade of CO₂, it is going to cost about \$300 billion annually in taxes. I was critical of my colleagues, the 75 Senators who voted to give an unelected bureaucrat, Secretary Paulson, \$700 billion to do with as he wished with no oversight. I was critical of that. Of course, that is a one-shot deal. This was every year, a \$300 billion annual tax increase. It was too much, even if the science was fully settled.

Now the science is shifting dramatically to the other side. So I believe we need to be looking, even if we use their own figures of \$6.7 trillion as the cost of the life of a similar bill to the Lieberman-Warner bill.

I conclude by repeating something I have said many times: Even if you believe this, if you believe that manmade gas is a major cause of climate change, what good would it do for us unilaterally in the United States to impose a financial hardship, \$300 billion a year, on people in the United States, when all that would do logically is cause our manufacturing base to further erode and to go to countries such as China and India and Mexico, other countries that have no emission restrictions at all. It would be a \$300 billion tax on us every year, and it would have the effect of increasing the net amount of emissions worldwide.

Last year I didn't say very much about the science. In fact, when we had the Lieberman-Warner bill up, I made the statement: Let's assume, for debate of this bill, that the science is all there and that it is settled. Then I pursued the economic argument. The other side didn't like it because they wanted to debate the science. I said: Let's assume you are right. You are not, but let's assume you are. This is something that we could not afford, the cost. Sometimes we throw around big figures. I often have said about the \$700 billion bailout that I opposed and that 75 Senators voted for, if you stopped and realized the number of taxpayers or families who file a tax return and do the math, this comes to \$5,000 a family. If you look at this, this would be over \$2,000 a family every year. We want to be sure we are right if we do something. Let's go forward. Let's look at it, but let's pay attention more than anything else at this time not just to the economics but the fact that without doubt, the science is shifting. This report, 650 of the top scientists and growing every day, is conclusive in my mind that many of those individuals who were on the other side of this issue are now standing up to the intimidation and have become skeptics.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WHITEHOUSE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the urgent need to address our Nation's economic challenges and to suggest that a major part of our approach should be to invest in clean alternative energy and energy efficiency.

Before I get into my remarks, it has been a very exciting few days for me. Since being sworn in as the junior Senator from New Hampshire, and as this is my first speech on the Senate floor, I want to begin by thanking Majority Leader REID, Minority Leader McCONNELL, our senior Senator from New

Hampshire JUDD GREGG, and the entire Senate leadership for their warm welcome and support.

On November 4, voters in my State of New Hampshire went to the polls and demanded a new direction, just as voters did across the country. I am eager to work with my fellow Senators and with our next President, Barack Obama, to fulfill that promise of change. The challenges before us are great. For 11 months in a row, the number of jobs in our Nation has declined. More and more families across the country are losing their homes to foreclosure, and too many Americans watched their retirement savings evaporate last year.

It is no exaggeration to say that this 111th Congress and President-elect Obama will face some of the most difficult challenges in our country's history. These problems were created over many years, and they will not be solved quickly. But Americans have always united to meet great challenges, and I have no doubt that we will do so once more.

Our first task is to get our economy back on track by putting middle-class families first again and creating good jobs. As the recession continues, it has become clear that a bold economic recovery package is necessary. This package must focus investment in areas of the economy that will provide the recovery we need and lay the foundation for long-term economic growth.

Investing in our Nation's infrastructure will both create needed jobs in the short term and foster economic development in the long term. There are critical capital projects throughout the State of New Hampshire and the country—projects such as repairing and upgrading our roads and bridges, modernizing our public schools and higher education facilities, and replacing outdated water treatment plants, and other municipal projects. These investments will create jobs and lay the groundwork for sustained economic growth.

We also need a bold investment in energy efficiency and clean alternative energy. These investments in new energy will create millions of 21st century green-collar jobs, begin to reverse global warming, and start on the path to energy independence.

New Hampshire small businesses already are leaders in the new energy economy, making everything from wood pellets to ethanol, from forest by-products to solar panels and biofuels. We have seen firsthand how investment in clean energy creates good jobs up and down the economic ladder—advanced manufacturing jobs, highly skilled construction jobs, jobs installing solar panels and energy-efficiency systems, jobs selling and delivering new fuels. These are good jobs. They are jobs that cannot be outsourced overseas. I am honored I will be joining the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to work on these very issues as we develop a real energy policy for the future of this country.

These investments are necessary to get our economy moving again. But as we must invest, we also must develop a comprehensive plan to address the Nation's ballooning budget deficit and the enormous national debt we have inherited. Our Nation's financial strength tomorrow depends on our careful planning and prudent investments today.

In November, Americans cried out for a new way of doing business in Washington. I applaud President-elect Obama for leading the way with the most open and transparent transition process in our Nation's history and believe we must continue that transparency. We must recommit to accountability and oversight, and we must end the partisan gridlock that has stymied progress for too long. I am committed to working across the aisle to make Washington work again for middle-class American families.

Tuesday, when I took the oath of office as a Senator, I made a commitment to embrace the opportunities that lie ahead and to help lead our Nation in a new direction. I am eager to begin.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, could I ask my friend from New Hampshire to withhold her request?

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I say yes to the majority leader. I did not see the majority leader on the floor. I apologize for that. I withdraw my request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The request is withdrawn.

The majority leader is recognized.

CONGRATULATING SENATOR SHAHEEN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wanted to be here to listen to JEANNE SHAHEEN give her maiden speech. Of course, it brings back a flood of memories of my maiden speech. I was so fortunate, I tell everyone, on that initial speech. I had served a couple terms in the House, and I had been trying to get something called the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights passed. The subcommittee chair in the House made fun of my legislation. I did not get anywhere with that. But I believed in it, so I marched over here—and I had the last seat way back in the corner over there—and I gave my first speech, and it was on the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights.

Fortunately, I say to the Presiding Officer, David Pryor—MARK PRYOR's father—was presiding. He was a member of the Finance Committee and the chairman of the subcommittee that had jurisdiction over the IRS. CHARLES GRASSLEY was listening to my speech. There were not many more people than there are right now on the floor. But David Pryor sent me a note saying: I like this. Let me help you. And CHUCK GRASSLEY communicated with me saying he would help.

That was a fortunate day in my life because even though I took credit for the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights passing, it would never have happened if not for David Pryor. He worked the last night of this session—I was in Nevada—he was on that Finance Committee, and they were trying to complete the conference. Anyway, he got it done.

These maiden speeches are meaningful because you will never forget the speech you have given.

Now, for JEANNE SHAHEEN, I have had such admiration for her for such a long time. We all watched as she presided over the State of New Hampshire as Governor. She did a remarkably good job. When I learned she wanted to run for the Senate, I was excited because this great statesperson, with this engaging smile and her ability to work hard, which everyone knows about, is going to leave her in good standing here in the Senate.

I say to my friend from New Hampshire, the junior Senator from New Hampshire, I appreciate the Senator running for the Senate. The people of the State of New Hampshire are going to reap benefits from that decision for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR ROBERT BYRD

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I join Senators on both sides of the aisle in paying tribute to our dear colleague and dear friend from West Virginia on this historic occasion of his 50th anniversary in the Senate. On January 7, 1959, ROBERT C. BYRD was sworn in as a Senator for the people of his beloved West Virginia, and in the years since then, he is become truly one of the greatest Senators ever to serve in this Chamber.

I have served with BOB for 46 of those years. I have immense respect for him, and I am proud to say that we have become close friends. I love ROBERT C. BYRD.

It wasn't always this way. There was a time that Senator BYRD and I were rivals, each with eyes on the position of majority whip. I was elected to that position after the 1968 election, but as I have often said, BOB taught me how to count votes in 1970 when he defeated me for reelection. It turned out to be a blessing for both of us.

BOB would go on to become one of the finest majority leaders in the history of the Senate, and the defeat freed me to concentrate on my legislative passions of health care, education, labor, and civil rights. In a very real sense BOB liberated me, and as our leader in many of those years he was especially helpful in accomplishing my goals.

The BOB BYRD I have come to know is a patriot, a passionate defender of the Constitution and the special role of the Senate, and an eloquent historian of the Senate, who has brilliantly served the people of his State.

I have so many wonderful memories of our relationship, but there are two recent ones I want to mention here.