Highly Condensed Assessment of the Public Debate of Climate Change

Dr. John Merrifield
President, Institute for Objective Policy Assessment,
objectivepolicyassessment.org
with Matthew McGehee, MA
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We need an assessment of ***The Public Debate of the Climate Change Controversies*** because: 1) "getting this wrong will be very costly;" and 2) many 'sides' of the various controversies have sincere, highly-credentialed advocates.

A) There is much discussion of ocean acidification, but no models predict more than slightly reduced alkalinity.

B) Warming and sea level rise is occurring, but the key models have been over-predicting it.

C) There is much discussion of 'clean energy,' but there is no such thing.

D) There are 'no regrets' carbon emission (GHG) reduction strategies, and all sides should try to implement them. Climate change concern creates an invaluable opportunity to implement many of them.

E) The scenario worthy of a costly policy response requires a quintupling of rates of CO_2 accumulation.

F) There've been large natural changes in temperature, which are as dangerous as man-caused warming.

G) It is counterproductive to argue that the science is settled. For example, an IPCC member could not get consideration of his evidence that cooling is likely through mid-century.

H) There is little attention to the potential for release of naturally-stored methane; a powerful GHG.

I) In light of uncertainties, possible natural causes of significant warming, and likely low compliance with emission reduction promises, geo-engineering is way, way under-researched.

J) China is not acting like it is ready to achieve promised big GHG cuts after 2030; quite the contrary.

K) There is much high symbolism, low substance regional Climate Action Plan 'leadership.'

L) Extreme weather events have not become generally more common.

M) Potential pumped water storage of electricity is under-researched and probably under-utilized.

N) Wind/solar, with standby natural gas-fired generation, releases more GHG than continuously-operated, gas-fired generation, alone!!

O) There is a 'no-regrets' approach to carbon taxation, which is important given the related uncertainties.

P) The 'price control' aspects of carbon taxation and carbon removal credits need attention.

Q) Corruption persistence is a key GHG emissions cause, especially in less-developed countries.

FULL DEBATE ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT