



Roundup: Don't mix politics with climate bill

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USA TODAY OPINION

Letters to the editor

USA TODAY receives about 300 letters each day. Most arrive via e-mail, but we also receive submissions by postal mail and fax. We publish about 35 letters each week.

We often select comments that respond directly to USA TODAY articles or opinion pieces. Letters that are concise and make one or two good points have the best chance of being selected, as do letters that reflect the vibrant debate around the nation on a particular subject.

We aim to make the letters platform a place where readers, not just writers representing institutions or interest groups, have their say.

- How to submit letters

I was alarmed to read the blog post "Is it dead? Climate bill suffers setback over immigration." Imagine that during a conversation with your children, who are convincingly campaigning for greater personal freedom, a smoldering electrical wire triggers your fire alarm. What do you do? You grab your cellphone, corral your family outside and dial 911. The conversation with your children, though relevant, must wait (USATODAY.com, Green House, Sunday).

READ BLOG: Is it dead? Climate bill suffers setback over immigration

As we witness the planet's flashing neon signs warning us of danger ahead, the same adrenaline hit that instinctively drives us to protect our family's safety must also focus our collective attention on protecting the planet. It doesn't really matter why immigration suddenly distracted Washington from the all-important matter of climate change, but Sens. Harry Reid and Lindsey Graham would serve the country well by ensuring that energy reform receives top billing in the Senate. The alarm is sounding, and my ears are ringing.

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Stacy Clark; Dallas

More flu lessons

Your survey of lessons learned from the government attempts to respond to H1N1 omitted two key lessons that were not learned ("One year later, five lessons from the swine flu outbreak," Editorial, Monday).

The first is the danger of placing all of our eggs in the basket of centralized government agencies. Whatever potential they have for protecting public health, the consequences of their mistakes can be catastrophic. We need to have other options.

The second is that cell-based technology — and the number of companies capable of developing it — has been severely limited by our out-of-control legal liability system that has been closing down vaccine manufacturers and making America dependent on foreign manufacturers for vaccines. Until we restore a rational and objective legal liability system, we will eliminate U.S. investment in vaccines in order to provide financial jackpots to a few law firms. That must be corrected at once.

Richard E. Ralston, Executive Director, Americans for Free Choice in Medicine; Newport Beach, Calif.

You might also be interested in:

- Lessons from the swine flu pandemic (USATODAY.com in News)
One year later, five lessons from the swine flu outbreak (USATODAY.com in News)
NYC giving swine flu vaccine to employers for at-risk employees (USATODAY.com in Money)
CDC: Swine flu fears pushed seasonal shots to record high (USATODAY.com in News)

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Posted 6d 16h ago

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seagirbythesea (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 3d 19h ago

It's actually called The American Power Act and it's sponsored by Sens. Graham, Kerry, and Lieberman. The Senate did have enough people on board (thanks to Republican Sen. Graham moving across the aisle) to push this through, but at the last minute Sen. Reid interfered and forced immigration ahead of energy. With the Senate primed to tackle energy reform (as it is casually referred to), their focus has now been temporarily diverted. Energy reform will stimulate the economic forces driving green energy investment in the U.S. Global warming or not, the Ohio-sized spill in the Gulf is evidence enough that energy reform is essential and that green jobs are going to be the sustainable foundation of an evolving clean energy economy.

Stacy Clark, Dallas

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John Q. Public (2 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 3d 22h ago

I wish that this bill were not called "climate" anything. I don't know if the planet is warming or cooling. I don't know if there is too much CO2 or not enough. And so do a lot of people. If you can't get everyone aboard, your efforts are going to fail.

I saw a piece on one the evening news the other day about goats eating grass instead of using lawn mowers. Do you not think that these goats exhale CO2? All organisms that perform oxidation-reduction reactions to perform work do.

Climate change due to increased concentrations of CO2 is too controversial. The loss of production of any finite energy source due to the effects of "peak production" is not. It's been known since the first oil well began to lose production. It has proven itself time and again. For the United States it was proven in 1970.

Let's change the name of this bill as the postponement of peak oil bill. Because when the chair gets removed from the game of worldwide oil production "musical chairs", our standard of living is going to change. When two or three chairs are removed, life is going to get to get real ugly real fast.

If you really believe that CO2 is the problem, then you will be just as happy with the results of any efforts to mitigate the effects of peak oil.

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seagirbythesea (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 4d 13h ago

Even if Climate Change is a scam, as you suggest that it is, our dependence on fossil fuels still carries innumerable costs. We now face an oil slick as big as Ohio, species extinction; increasing lung and heart disease; deadly mine explosions; mountaintop removal; perishing forests; dying oceans; shrinking habitats; and the giant Pacific gyres of plastic! The list is long and the costs are practically incalculable. These are big prices to pay for the convenience of cheap fuel. One purpose of energy reform is to assign a realistic price to oil, coal, and other fossil fuels that impact human health and the environment.

Stacy Clark
Dallas, TX

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Dar (52 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 5d 7h ago

If there is a fire in the house, the first response must not be chaining the children.

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Antonio Sosa (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 5d 9h ago



Lord Christopher Monckton is chief policy advisor to the Science and Public Policy Institute.

Monckton was educated at Harrow School, Churchill College, Cambridge and University College, Cardiff. He was UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's policy advisor from 1982 to 1986.

Monckton has had the courage to express his scepticism of global warming, an scepticism shared by thousands of HONEST scientists. More than 31,000 American scientists have signed onto a petition that states, "There is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth's atmosphere and disruption of the Earth's climate." <http://www.petitionproject.org>

In November 2006, he published in The Daily Telegraph a widely publicized article critical of the prevailing climate change opinions. After U.S. Senators Rockefeller and Snowe wrote a letter to the Chief Executive Officer of ExxonMobil asking him to stop funding scientists who reject global warming, Lord Monckton wrote a letter to the senators reminding them of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and calling on them to reverse their position or resign. In February 2007, he published an analysis and summary of the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report on climate change.

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seagirlbythesea (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 5d 10h ago

Lord Christopher Monckton has no scientific or environmental credentials of any kind. He is, I believe, a temporary media phenomenon, who has managed to convince some that he is an expert of sorts....perhaps it's his fancy title?

We have very different views, and clearly, quite different experiences with regard to the motivations of environmental writers, educators, researchers, and explorers.

I am comfortable with my views and I know you believe in yours.

Respectfully,
Stacy Clark

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Antonio Sosa (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 5d 10h ago

seagirlbythesea, we all need to care for and preserve the environment. The climate bill (cap and trade), however, has NOTHING to do with caring for or preserving the environment. It's just a HOAX, a SCAM engineered to increase Obama's power and net trillions for Obama's billionaire friends -- all at the expense of middle-class and poor Americans.

By further destroying the economy, cap and trade will further destroy the environment because you need money to care for the environment.

The "green" policies advocated by the left have NOT helped to strengthen poorer economies across the globe. They have helped destroyed them. They have killed millions of people.

Spain's "green" strategies (which Obama said the U.S. should imitate) have multiplied unemployment, which is now close to 20%.

As Lord Christopher Monckton says, "The environmental movement has to be outlawed, because their policies have murdered 40 million people, mainly children, with the ban on DDT. They have caused mass starvation and food riots with their nonsensical drive for bio-fuels. The forces of darkness in the environmental movement want create a new dark age in which humanity is pushed back to the Stone Age and without the right to light a fire." http://www.larouchepub.com/pr/2009/090310climate_warming_conf.html

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Dar (52 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 5d 11h ago

A climate bill is ALL politics.

It is for those whose purpose and meaning in life is the control of others.

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seagirlbythesea (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 5d 11h ago

Antonio,

Caring for, and preserving the environment are strategies that have helped to strengthen poorer economies across the globe. Educational programs have helped to link environmental stewardship of resources in these areas with the pressing needs of local economies. The examples are numerous.

Someone very astute and well informed recently commented to a group of college students, "Environmental conservation and stewardship of resources is actually a very conservative value." I agree. Caring about the fate of the planet we inhabit seems like basic common sense, no? Protecting, rather than squandering resources, is what we should expect from ourselves, from our corporations,

and from state and national legislators.

Antonio, it's okay that we don't agree.

Respectfully,
Stacy Clark

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Antonio Sosa (0 friends, [send message](#)) wrote: 5d 12h ago

Informed Europeans and others are hoping for U.S. leadership in debunking the global warming/climate change hoax, which has already hurt many people and threatens to hurt millions more. It's the hoax, not global warming, that threatens us.

At the third International Conference on Climate Change in Washington, DC, where top world scientists and economists spoke against the global warming hoax, Lord Christopher Monckton, former science advisor to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, said it was up to us, Americans, to save the world from the hoax. He said:

"... the highly placed conspirators who seek to ride the climate scare to world domination have reckoned without one thing. You. You are here, and you will not let the truth go.

"Thanks to you, it is becoming evident that the rent-seeking promoters of this great boondoggle, through the very scientific ignorance that they had sought to exploit in others, have merely deluded themselves.

"In the end, it will be here, in the United States, that the truth will first emerge. ... Not in Europe, for we are no longer free. ... It is here, in this great nation founded upon liberty, that the battle for the world's freedom will be won." <http://thesop.org/index.php?article=16477>

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