

March 10, 2008

To the members of the EQC Committee:

Please accept the following testimony on the Climate Change Survey that is before this committee.

My name is Kerry White and I am the current President of the Gallatin County Planning Board and one of the 13 Executive Co-Chairman of a multiple use organization called Citizens for Balanced Use. I am a life long resident of Gallatin County and have operated a small business there for the last 22 years. I have been following the global climate change debate over the last few years and am quite concerned as to the reasoning behind this debate. It would appear by the attached information that I am including with my testimony that we are indeed headed down a road in which industry will be wrongfully blamed for a condition of climate change that is nothing more than a natural occurrence of nature.

The founder of the Weather Channel has recently accused Al Gore of spreading propaganda that has created a basis for him to extort money from industry in order to sell carbon credits for his personal gain. The facts speak for themselves and Mr. Gore may face charges in court as a result of his actions. Montana should not act too hastily in support of Mr. Gore's assumption that industry or human activity has anything to do with climate change. Montana should take a position of supporting any and all efforts to stimulate the development of our natural resources in a responsible way.

The last few years have brought catastrophic fires to our state with the result being a waste of a renewable resource second to none. This seems to me to be the real crime. The Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest had over 600,000 acres of dead trees in 2006. I am quite sure this amount has grown even larger today. What is or can be done to tap this biomass energy source? This committee should commit some time and effort to addressing this issue before our entire state forests become nothing more than a pile of ash. According to a study in Colorado, forest fires are the number one cause of airborne mercury emissions. I recently saw that our lakes in Montana have very high levels of mercury present in them. I see a direct collation between the recent fires in Montana and the mercury levels that are rising in our lakes yet we continue to burn our forests rather than harvest this valuable resource.

I am a forth generation citizen of this state and I am alarmed at the amount I pay to keep my family warm in the winter and the lights on at my home and business. If the predictions of a mini ice age where to become a reality, I worry about the heating bills that will be a result of this cooling period. I am concerned about the people on fixed incomes or low incomes that will not be able to pay their energy bill.

We live in a state with a vast amount of resources yet we seem to refuse to utilize them for the good of the people. Trout Unlimited has just acquired the oil and gas leases on the Rocky Mountain Front and has vowed to retire these leases all in the name of protection. I ask about the protection of our citizens and the ability for people to heat their homes. I believe we can develop these resources in a responsible manner yet we refuse to try.

When I filled out the Climate Change Survey it seemed to me to be slanted in a direction of anti-growth, anti-resource development and anti-industry. The survey looks to be focused on applying more cost to industry that will ultimately be passed on to the consumer in the form of higher and higher energy cost. We have the technology to develop our resources cleanly and wisely without putting additional burdens on businesses and individuals. The old days of uncontrolled resource extraction are gone and laws now exist that protect our environment when these resources are developed. What is missing from the equation in my mind is a long range plan that can be supported from those organizations that file litigation on virtually every form of energy development. Whether it is wind, water, coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear, biomass or any other form of energy development, it seems we end up in court. I would ask instead that these groups come forward with a sensible plan to heat our homes and keep our lights on rather than oppose every single energy development idea that is brought forward.

This committee should dismiss the notion that people or industry are causing any type of climate change and instead focus on how we can develop more of our resources cleanly and affordably. Montana should embrace our resource industries and find ways to assist these businesses for the good of the people.

Please take a close look at the facts that I have included with this testimony and understand the reason that the global warming and climate change hype was falsely produced and marketed in a neat package to the public. Sometimes if you follow the money you will find the reasoning behind such ideologies.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Climate Change Survey and provide additional information to this committee. I would be happy to answer any questions that this committee may have.

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Facts about a coming mini ice age  
Following information from article; *2008 Newsmax*.

Are the world's ice caps melting because of climate change, or are the reports just a lot of scare mongering by the advocates of the global warming theory?

Scare mongering appears to be the case, according to reports from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) that reveal that almost all the allegedly "lost" ice has come back. A NOAA report shows that ice levels which had shrunk from 5 million square miles in January 2007 to just 1.5 million square miles in October, are almost back to their original levels.

- ◆ Moreover, a Feb. 18 report in the London Daily Express showed that there is nearly a third more ice in Antarctica than usual
- ◆ The Daily express recalls the photograph of polar bears clinging on to a melting iceberg and fails to mention that the photograph was taken in the month of August when melting is normal.
- ◆ As the Express notes, scientists are saying the northern Hemisphere has endured its coldest winter in decades, adding that snow cover across the area is at its greatest since 1966.
- ◆ Around the world, vast areas have been buried under some of the heaviest snowfalls in decades. Central and southern China , the United States , and Canada were hit hard by snowstorms. In China , snowfall was so heavy that over 100,000 houses collapsed under the weight of snow.
- ◆ AFP news reports icy temperatures have just swept through south China , stranding 180,000 people and leading to widespread power cuts just as the area was recovering from the worst weather in 50 years, the government said Monday. The latest cold snap has taken a severe toll in usually temperate Yunnan province, which has been struck by heavy snowfalls since Thursday, a government official from the provincial disaster relief office told AFP.
- ◆ An ongoing record-long spell of cold weather in Vietnam 's northern region, which started on Jan. 14, has killed nearly 60,000 cattle, mainly bull and buffalo calves, local press reported Monday. By Feb. 17, the spell had killed a total of 59,962 cattle in the region, including 7,349 in the Ha Giang province, 6,400 in Lao Cai, and 5,571 in Bac Can province, said Hoang Kim Giao, director of the Animal Husbandry Department under the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, according to the Pioneer newspaper.

- ◆ In Britain the temperatures plunged to -10 C in central England , according to the Express, which reports that experts say that February could end up as one of the coldest in Britain in the past 10 years with the freezing night-time conditions expected to stay around a frigid -8 C until at least the middle of the week. And the BBC reports that a bus company's efforts to cut global warming emissions have led to services being disrupted by cold weather.
- ◆ Meanwhile Athens News reports that a raging snow storm that blanketed most of Greece over the weekend and continued into the early morning hours on Monday, plunging the country into sub-zero temperatures. The agency reported that public transport buses were at a standstill on Monday in the wider Athens area, while ships remained in ports, public services remained closed, and schools and courthouses in the more severely-stricken prefectures were also closed. Scores of villages, mainly on the island of Crete , and in the prefectures of Evia, Argolida, Arcadia , Lakonia, Viotia, and the Cyclades islands were snowed in. More than 100 villages were snowed-in on the island of Crete and temperatures in Athens dropped to -6 C before dawn, while the coldest temperatures were recorded in Kozani, Grevena, Kastoria and Florina, where they plunged to -12 C.