

Dave Tofsted's Letter in the 26 April Sun-News is here

<http://www.lcsun-news.com/story/opinion/letters/2017/04/25/letters-vote-country-party/100885532/>

Don't risk economy on worthless predictions

In a recent letter, Gary Gregson claimed kinship between climate change and the heliocentric model. Yet Galileo and Copernicus fought the same sort of consensus quackery as today's skeptics face. Skeptics seek verified and validated data and methods rather than emotional appeals, failed models/methods, and manipulated data.

Case in point: I recently attended David DuBois' (state climatologist) talk on climate change. His presentation blamed climate change on humans, but his points ignored two key factors: oceanic influences and nonlinear processes. Ocean processes account for the three latest warm (El Niño) events: 1998, 2010, and 2016. Ocean cycles such as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation and the Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation, a 60-year cycle, have profound influences on New Mexico weather. DuBois' analysis completely ignored these factors.

Instead, DuBois chose to promote Michael Mann's discredited "hockey-stick" curve. Mann's thoroughly debunked analysis (see "The Hockey Stick Illusion" by A.W. Montford) completely erases the naturally occurring, centuries-long medieval warm period, documented in over 200 papers covering the globe.

That is, DuBois selected a politically motivated product (Mann was featured prominently in ClimateGate), while downplaying natural influences.

Similarly, DuBois claimed the significant Solar Sunspot Maximum (1950-2000) couldn't affect today's climate. In so doing, he ignores the possibility that decadal oscillations could cause reverberations due to this SSM for decades into the future.

For example, while solar output was greater during 1950-1970, the planet actually cooled, to the degree that scientists were warning of an approaching ice age by the 1970s.

The ocean-atmosphere system is based on dynamic, nonlinear laws that produce responses that gradually make any prediction worthless (search Lyapunov exponent) over a period of a few days or weeks. Should we risk our economy on such guesswork? Skeptics say no.

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