

01/2011

Re: Science Should Be Judged By Scientists

Dear Editor,

James Owens (Letters, 01/07/2011) appoints himself as a judge of "true science", but I suspect most people would prefer to have qualified scientific experts be the judge of what is reliable climate science and what is not. In fact 97% of climate scientists agree that data from recent decades unambiguously demonstrates that global warming is occurring and is primarily human caused from CO2 emissions.

The latest scientific consensus of these studies summarized in the last IPCC report assigns a 90% confidence of these changes having significant adverse impacts to many parts of the world. What's more, we can already see these impacts occurring throughout the last decade with record temperatures, record rain and snow precipitation (because warmer air holds more water vapor, which by the way Owens inadvertently concedes further amplifies global warming effects!), and record droughts, all bringing more misery to millions.

A hypothetical question: what if 97% of professional astronomers agreed that there was an asteroid headed straight for the earth with a 90% chance of significant adverse effects and a consensus of those scientists suggested that we might want to do something about it? I wonder if Owens would also dismiss their claims as mere moralizing based on those who "fumble around with handpicked scientific facts"?

For those with more open minds, a good place to learn about the current scientific understanding of climate is www.skepticalscience.com.

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