

## **“CONSENSUS” and “THE SCIENCE IS SETTLED”**

There is nothing more potent in showing you that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a political panel than its overuse of the word “consensus” and a desire to convince everyone that ‘everyone’ agrees on the science of global warming. The concept and the words are powerful in politics but not used in science.

Consequently many climate activists try to stop any discussion on global warming by stating that “*The science is settled*” and that there is a “*consensus*” among all scientists about the science of global warming. Such statements are foolish when it is obvious that a vigorous debate about the science is heard all over the world. If the science was settled, there would be silence and there would be no need to make such statements. For instance, most scientists accept the current understanding about the laws of gravity and, consequently, you do not see people running around saying “*the science is settled*”.

To demonstrate that this debating trick was nonsense, a Petition Project was formed to gather the names of scientists in America that disagreed with the global warming theory. The Petition, signed by more than 30,000 scientists, makes the point that these scientists are not merely “sceptical” about the science – they reject it as the following quote attests:

***“From the clear and strong petition statement that they have signed, it is evident that these 31,478 American scientists are not “skeptics.” These scientists are instead convinced that the human-caused global warming hypothesis is without scientific validity and that government action on the basis of this hypothesis would unnecessarily and counterproductively damage both human prosperity and the natural environment of the Earth.”***

The results of this Petition, including all the names of those who have signed it, can be found in Appendix 4 of the publication “*Climate Change Reconsidered – The 2009 Report of the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC)*”, Chicago IL, Heartland Institute, 2009. This publication can be downloaded, for no cost, from the following website:

<http://www.heartland.org/environmentandclimate-news.org/index.html>

The remainder of this handout replicates the first two sections of this Appendix.

## Appendix 4

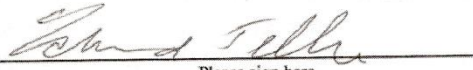
### The Petition Project

- 1.1. About the Petition.
- 1.2. Qualifications of Signers.
- 1.3. Frequently Asked Questions. (**Not enclosed in the Handout**)
- 1.4. Directory of Signers. (**Not enclosed in the Handout**)

**Petition**

We urge the United States government to reject the global warming agreement that was written in Kyoto, Japan in December, 1997, and any other similar proposals. The proposed limits on greenhouse gases would harm the environment, hinder the advance of science and technology, and damage the health and welfare of mankind.

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. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth.

 \_\_\_\_\_  Please send more petition cards for me to distribute.

Please sign here

My academic degree is B.S.  M.S.  Ph.D.  in the field of PHYSICS

#### 1.1. About the Petition

The petition pictured above has been signed by 31,478 Americans with university degrees in science, including 9,029 with Ph.D.s. The petition reads in part: "*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. Moreover, there is substantial scientific evidence that increases in atmospheric carbon dioxide produce many beneficial effects upon the natural plant and animal environments of the Earth.*" A copy of one actual signed petition appears above. The majority of the current listed signatories signed or re-signed the petition after October 2007.

The purpose of the Petition Project is to demonstrate that the claim of "settled science" and an overwhelming "consensus" in favour of the hypothesis of human-caused global warming and consequent climatological damage is wrong. No such consensus or settled science exists. As indicated by the petition text and signatory list, a very large number of American scientists reject this hypothesis.

From the clear and strong petition statement that they have signed, it is evident that these 31,478 American scientists are not "skeptics." These scientists

are instead convinced that the human-caused global warming hypothesis is without scientific validity and that government action on the basis of this hypothesis would unnecessarily and counterproductively damage both human prosperity and the natural environment of the Earth.

This petition is primarily circulated by U.S. Postal Service mailings to scientists. Included in the mailings are the petition card, a letter from Frederick Seitz (reproduced on the following page), a scientific review article (reproduced on the pages following the directory of petition signers), and a return envelope. If a scientist wishes to sign, he or she completes the petition and mails it to the project by first-class mail. Additionally, many petition signers obtain petition cards from their colleagues, who request these cards from the project. A scientist can also obtain a copy of the petition from [www.PetitionProject.org](http://www.PetitionProject.org), sign, and mail it. Fewer than 5 percent of the current signatories obtained their petition in this way.

The letter on the following page, from Professor Frederick Seitz, is circulated with the petition. Dr. Seitz, a physicist, was president of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and of Rockefeller University. He received the National Medal of Science, the Compton Award, the Franklin Medal, and numerous other awards, including honorary doctorates from 32 universities around the world. In August 2007, Dr. Seitz reviewed and approved the article by Dr. Arthur B. Robinson, Dr. Noah E. Robinson, and Dr. Willie Soon that is circulated with the petition and gave his enthusiastic approval to the continuation of the Petition Project. A vigorous supporter of the Petition Project since its inception in 1998, Professor Seitz died on March 2, 2008.

## **1.2. Qualifications of Signers**

Petition project volunteers evaluate each signer's credentials, verify signer identities, and, if appropriate, add the signer's name to the petition list. Signatories are approved for inclusion in the Petition Project list if they have obtained formal educational degrees at the level of Bachelor of Science or higher in appropriate scientific fields. The petition has circulated only in the United States.

The current list of petition signers includes 9,029 persons who hold Ph.D.s, 7,153 who hold an MS, 2,585 who hold MDs or DVMs, and 12,711 who hold a BS or equivalent academic degrees. Most of the MD and DVM signers also have underlying degrees in basic science.



Enclosed is a twelve-page review of information on the subject of "global warming," a petition in the form of a reply card, and a return envelope. Please consider these materials carefully.

The United States is very close to adopting an international agreement that would ration the use of energy and of technologies that depend upon coal, oil, and natural gas and some other organic compounds.

This treaty is, in our opinion, based upon flawed ideas. Research data on climate change do not show that human use of hydrocarbons is harmful. To the contrary, there is good evidence that increased atmospheric carbon dioxide is environmentally helpful.

The proposed agreement would have very negative effects upon the technology of nations throughout the world, especially those that are currently attempting to lift from poverty and provide opportunities to the over 4 billion people in technologically underdeveloped countries.

It is especially important for America to hear from its citizens who have the training necessary to evaluate the relevant data and offer sound advice.

We urge you to sign and return the enclosed petition card. If you would like more cards for use by your colleagues, these will be sent.



Frederick Seitz  
Past President, National Academy of Sciences, U.S.A.  
President Emeritus, Rockefeller University

All of the listed signers have formal educations in fields of specialization that suitably qualify them to evaluate the research data related to the petition statement. Many of the signers currently work in climatological, meteorological, atmospheric, environmental, geophysical, astronomical, and biological fields directly involved in the climate change controversy. The Petition Project classifies petition signers on the basis of their formal academic training, as summarized below. Scientists pursue specialized fields of endeavor that are different from their formal education, but their

underlying training can be applied to any scientific field in which they become interested.

Outlined below are the numbers of Petition Project signatories, subdivided by educational specialties. These have been combined, as indicated into seven categories.

1. Atmospheric, environmental, and Earth sciences includes 3,803 scientists trained in specialties directly related to the physical environment of the Earth and the past and current phenomena that affect that environment.
2. Computer and mathematical sciences includes 935 scientists trained in computer and mathematical methods. Since the human-caused global warming hypothesis rests entirely upon mathematical computer projections and not upon experimental observations, these sciences are especially important in evaluating this hypothesis.
3. Physics and aerospace sciences include 5,810 scientists trained in the fundamental physical and molecular properties of gases, liquids, and solids which are essential to understanding the physical properties of the atmosphere and Earth.
4. Chemistry includes 4,818 scientists trained in the molecular interactions and behaviors of the substances of which the atmosphere and Earth are composed.
5. Biology and agriculture includes 2,964 scientists trained in the functional and environmental requirements of living things on the Earth.
6. Medicine includes 3,046 scientists trained in the functional and environmental requirements of human beings on the Earth.
7. Engineering and general science includes 10,102 scientists trained primarily in the many engineering specialties required to maintain modern civilization and the prosperity required for all human actions, including environmental programs.

The outline below gives a more detailed analysis of the signers' educations.

### Qualifications of Petition Signers

<p><b>Atmosphere, Earth, and Environment (3,803)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Atmosphere (578)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Atmospheric Science (113)</li> <li>b) Climatology (39)</li> <li>c) Meteorology (341)</li> <li>d) Astronomy (59)</li> <li>e) Astrophysics (26)</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>2. Earth (2,240)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Earth Science (94)</li> <li>b) Geochemistry (63)</li> <li>c) Geology (1,684)</li> <li>d) Geophysics (341)</li> <li>e) Geoscience (36)</li> <li>f) Hydrology (22)</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>3. Environment (985)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Environmental Engineering (486)</li> <li>b) Environmental Science (253)</li> <li>c) Forestry (163)</li> <li>d) Oceanography (83)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biology, and Agriculture (7,782)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Chemistry (3,126)</b></li> <li><b>2. Chemical Engineering (1,692)</b></li> <li><b>3. Biochemistry (744)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Biochemistry (676)</li> <li>b) Biophysics (68)</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>4. Biology (1,437)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Biology (1,048)</li> <li>b) Ecology (76)</li> <li>c) Entomology (59)</li> <li>d) Zoology (149)</li> <li>e) Animal Science (105)</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>5. Agriculture (783)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Agricultural Science (296)</li> <li>b) Agricultural Engineering (114)</li> <li>c) Plant Science (292)</li> <li>d) Food Science (81)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p><b>Computers and Math (935)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1 Computer Science (242)</b></li> <li><b>2 Math (693)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Mathematics (581)</li> <li>b) Statistics (112)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Medicine (3,046)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Medical Science (719)</b></li> <li><b>2. Medicine (2,327)</b></li> </ol>
<p><b>Physics and Aerospace (5,810)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Physics (5,223)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Physics (2,365)</li> <li>b) Nuclear Engineering (223)</li> <li>c) Mechanical Engineering (2,635)</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>2. Aerospace Engineering (587)</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>General Engineering and General Science (10,102)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. General Engineering (9,833)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Engineering (7,280)</li> <li>b) Electrical Engineering (2,169)</li> <li>c) Metallurgy (384)</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>2. General Science (269)</b></li> </ol>