



## **Climate science claims panned as ‘misdirection’: Letters to the editor**

R. Martin

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The recent opinion letter by Tom Harris, executive director for the International Climate Science Coalition in Ottawa, Canada, was a slick piece of misdirection. The ICSC is part of a network of fossil fuel and tobacco lobbyists whose primary goal is to discredit legitimate climate science. Harris was a registered lobbyist for the Canadian Electricity and Gas Associations. The ICSC receives funding from the Heartland Institute, funded by tobacco and power companies and the Koch Brothers.

The Nongovernmental Panel on Climate Change report was designed to counter reports published by the United Nations. The 2016 U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, including investigations from thousands of climate scientists, concluded that human-induced climate change was real and would have serious consequences. At the IGSC website, there is a register of 64 United States scientists who disclaim human-induced climate change. Here are a few: Jay Lehr, "science director" at the Heartland Institute, was convicted and sentenced to six months in prison for defrauding the Environmental Protection Agency. Frank Tipler, Tulane University, has done no climate research but has written a book titled "The Physics of Immortality," in which he claims God will resurrect the minds of everyone as computer simulations. Harvard-trained MIT professor Richard Lindzen worked for the Cato Institute (founded by the Koch Brothers, with contributions by ExxonMobil).

I am a paleontologist specializing in environmental change over the past 5 million years. Indeed, the environment has changed in the past and it certainly will again. But human-induced changes are happening now at rates far exceeding those that naturally occur. Contrary to Harris, we might be able to reverse the effects of global warming. There is a climate crisis, and it will take real scientists to solve it.

— R. Martin, Erie