



Koch Money

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October 2, 2019

On Sept. 23, I attended an excellent forum on “the costs, risks and impacts of sea level rise,” which the Coastal Conservation League organized at the College of Charleston.

The featured speakers, Gilbert M. Gaul and Orrin H. Pilkey, gave well-researched presentations illustrated with striking slides that were enough to scare the living daylights out of any Charlestonian and homeowner in attendance.

From what we saw and heard, it was obvious that the inundation of the East Coast is inevitable, and its big population hubs from Boston to Miami are doomed.

A formidable sea wall is the only thing that will save Miami Beach and, consequently, it will no longer have a beach.

During the Q&A that followed the unsettling lectures, I asked a question that has been rolling around in my mind for several years.

I asked why the College of Charleston takes money from the most notorious climate-change denier in the world, Charles Koch.

“As early as 1991 ... when George H.W. Bush announced that he would support a treaty to limit carbon emissions,” Charles Koch and his Cato Institute decided to thwart all limits on carbon by opposing the science behind climate change, according to Christopher Leonard’s 2019 book, “Kochland.”

According to Greenpeace, from 1997-2017, Koch family foundations spent \$127 million funding climate-change denial.

I rephrase the question: Why is the College of Charleston, which is in such a precarious spot, taking money from a multibillionaire climate-change denier?