

# Mountain Democrat

## McClintock and climate science

May 3, 2019

Urs Schuler has my sympathy for being snubbed by Congressman Tom McClintock, who has yet to acknowledge a letter I sent him in 2009.

McClintock's denial of climate change is in keeping with his placing the interests of the energy industry ahead of his constituents' interests. McClintock turned down \$2-plus million earmarked for El Dorado County as part of the 2009 Obama stimulus package. McClintock did not want to give Obama a "victory." Was that looking out for his constituents?

I suggest Mr. Schuler Google the names of leading climate change deniers and how they're financed. The Heartland Institute is primus inter pares and is to climate science what FOX is to factual news. Pseudo "think tanks" like the Heritage Foundation and the CATO Institute are right-wing propaganda organs, allied with FOX, to spread disinformation/misinformation about climate science.

The common thread running through denialists is their funding: the Koch brothers are primus inter pares, then the Petroleum Institute, several oil and coal billionaires, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other bad actors like the Murray Foundation, funded by a coal company boasting the largest number of preventable mining accidents and deaths in the U.S.

The overwhelming majority of denialists are not climatologists. The founder of the movement is a Dane, Bjorn Lomborg, whose 1998 book "The Skeptical Environmentalist," was heavily promoted by the Koch brothers. Lomborg teaches economics at the University of Copenhagen. He has zero climate or physical sciences credentials. My wife and I were guests of one of Lomborg's faculty colleagues, himself a Ph.D. in climatology. "The man is a disgrace to science and to Denmark," said our friend.

On Sept. 10, 2010, Lomborg recanted his theories in "The Guardian." Not surprisingly, this news was never mentioned by FOX and other right wing media. The damage Lomborg has done is irreparable; it has given rise to an industry of science denial funded by domestic and foreign oil, coal and gas interests. Rep. McClintock has agreed to carry their water and spread their poison. Judas-like, he collects his pieces of silver in the form of campaign contributions.

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