



## Does Anyone Agree With Trump's Paris Agreement Pullout? Yes Indeed

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Richard Lindzen started life as a shoemaker's son in the Bronx. Now, as emeritus professor of meteorology at MIT, he sits atop the world's scientific hierarchy as a leading expert on climate dynamics and global heat transport. His 21-page curriculum vitae includes membership in and awards from the American Meteorological Society, the National Academy of Sciences, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Geophysical Union. He is a distinguished senior fellow at the Cato Institute and has served as consultant to NASA and lead author of the IPCC's *Third Assessment Report* on climate change in 2001.

What's his opinion of human-caused catastrophic global warming? "It's just nonsense," he stated at a November 2015 climate summit hosted by the Texas Public Policy Foundation. "Demonization of CO2 is irrational at best, and even modest warming is mostly beneficial."

For his unorthodoxy, Lindzen is often the object of climate alarmist attacks — including a witch hunt launched by U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva. The Arizona Democrat targeted several individuals, including Lindzen, contacting the universities where each of them has worked, demanding outside funding details. Grijalva admitted having no evidence supporting any conflict of interest or failure to disclose funding sources. "We were selected solely on the basis of our objections to alarmist claims about the climate," wrote Lindzen in a March 2015 op-ed in the *Wall Street Journal*. Backlash in the scientific community forced Grijalva to concede his "overreach" to the *National Journal*. But, says Lindzen, "At least Mr. Grijalva's letters should help clarify for many the essentially political nature of the alarms over the climate, and the damage it is doing to science, the environment and the well-being of the world's poorest."

Interestingly, Lindzen had complained in the Fall 2013 *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons* about the virtual government monopoly on funding for climate research, making science vulnerable to ideologues who exploit the system for political agenda. "This immediately involves a distortion of science at a very basic level: namely, science becomes a source of authority rather than a mode of inquiry," he explained, likening the current situation to Lysenkoism, an utterly erroneous genetics hypothesis sanctioned in Soviet Russia from the 1930s until 1964. Lysenkoism asserted inheritance of acquired characteristics and helped

promote Marxist evolutionary theory. The Soviet government mandated Lysenkoism as the only correct genetics theory; those who resisted were imprisoned and even executed.

"In contrast to Lysenkoism," wrote Lindzen, "Global Warming has become a religion" with a "global constituency, and has successfully coopted almost all of institutional science." But he offered the encouragement that "the evidence from previous cases offers hope that such peculiar belief structures do collapse."