



Review science; don't just score points

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I am writing in response to a recent Reader Commentary by Craig Etchison titled “Will we start listening to science?” (Sept. 12 Times-News).

It seems inevitable that whenever a natural disaster of any type occurs, whether flood, hurricane, or blizzard, climatistas attempt to link it to global warming and Mr Etchison is no exception. Ryan Maue, a research meteorologist and an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute, wrote in an op/ed published in the Wall Street Journal, “My own research, cited in a recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, found that during the past half-century tropical storms and hurricanes have not shown an upward trend in frequency or accumulated energy.”

Besides, if global warming causes more destructive hurricanes, wouldn't the lack of hurricanes over the past 12 years indicate an absence of global warming?

Mr Etchison then segues into a discussion of increasingly expensive storms by asking, “Why haven't we acknowledged that expensive storms are increasing?”

I don't know of anyone who disputes the fact that storms are more expensive, but to blame global warming is disingenuous at best. Since the 1990s the population of the U.S. has increased by 77 million people, all of whom require housing and autos. Since the 1990s, the median price of a new house has increased by \$188,000 and that of a new auto from \$15,000 to \$25,500, so of course storms have become more expensive!

In his article, Mr. Maue also suggested that, “Anyone trying to score political points after a natural disaster should take a deep breath and review the science first.” That's sound advice to those who exhibit a knee jerk, blame-global-warming reaction to every natural disaster.