



98 percent of scientists agree with him

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James Mitchell's recent attack on my observations about climate change is interesting in a number of ways. (See: "Review science; don't just score points," Oct. 8 Times-News) First, he only cites one person to support his position, Ryan Maue, of the Cato Institute, founded and financed by the Koch brothers, who have amassed billions from fossil fuels, and who want to see us continue burning fossil fuels so they can amass more billions. Not exactly an unbiased source.

Mr. Mitchell calls me a "climatista," even though in this area of concern, I try my best to sum up what 98 percent of all climatologists — scientists who make the observations and do the math involved in the physics of climate science — are saying. And they are unquestionably saying our planet is in deep trouble.

I have never said that any single storm or climate event is the result of climate change, just as no scientist would say that. But climatologists do say that the overall heating of the planet — and even climate change deniers can't dispute that fact — is changing weather patterns and increasing the strength of storms and other climate events.

We could look at California, for example. But these events are happening around the world, not just here.

Climate change is a major factor in killing the web of life on our planet. I would suggest anyone who doubts that should read Elizabeth Kolbert's "The Sixth Extinction."

If the web continues to disintegrate as it is now, humanity will eventually go extinct too. (The physics of the planet doesn't care. The planet will simply retool, as it were, and start over again if we continue on our present path. The planet has done that five times in the past.)

Finally, when I write about climate change and what it portends, I write out of concern for the young people who are just starting out — wanting them to have the opportunity to have full, productive lives without worrying about food or water or the next big storm. Scoring political points is hardly what I'm about.

In fact, politicizing climate change — especially as it has been recently in Washington — says much about our country that makes me sad. Everyone, regardless of political persuasion, should

be calling for action on this front, based on the best science so that we can give future generations a future.