

## The Wonk Room

### [Dr. Judith Curry Joins Tiny Stable Of GOP Climate Witnesses](#)

By [Brad Johnson](#) on Nov 16th, 2010 at 9:05 pm

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Dr. Judith Curry, a climate scientist at the Georgia Institute of Technology, is about to join a rarefied club — Republican witnesses on climate science. During the past twenty years of Congressional hearings on global warming — by far the hottest decades on record — the Republican Party has called upon a small cadre time and again to question the [scientific consensus](#) on the threat of greenhouse pollution to the global climate.

Even though the scientific community first began [warning policymakers](#) that the exponential increase in burning fossil fuels could dangerously destabilize the planet in the 1960s, the fossil-fuel industry has successfully blocked action by creating a false atmosphere of doubt and uncertainty. A primary method is the [employment of “expert” witnesses](#), most of whom are not climate scientists, to make [false arguments](#) against the scientific consensus.

Tomorrow at 10:30 AM, the House science committee will hold one of its last hearings under Democratic control, “A [Rational Discussion of Climate Change](#): the Science, the Evidence, the Response.” Two of the witnesses for the Republican minority are old hands at the denier game: Dr. Patrick Michaels, who has been a Republican climate witness since 1989, and Dr. Dick Lindzen, a Republican climate witness since 1991.

The newcomer is Dr. [Judith Curry](#), a climate scientist who specializes in hurricane dynamics, and is now a [climate policy blogger](#) and commercial [hurricane forecaster](#). In recent years, Curry has [criticized her fellow climate scientists](#) for not engaging with ideological critics, while making [increasingly unsupportable](#) arguments about the science.

The “expert” denial of the climate threat in the halls of Congress relies on a remarkably small bullpen, called to action repeatedly — seven climate scientists with [limited influence on their field](#) and eleven others:

## THE EXPERTS OF DOUBT

Not Climate Scientists	Climate Scientists
<p><b>Sallie Baliunas:</b> <a href="#">3/13/02</a>, <a href="#">9/17/96</a>. Baliunas is an <a href="#">astrophysicist</a>. Her testimony cites Michaels, Christy, Soon, and Lindzen.</p>	<p><b>John Christy:</b> <a href="#">2/25/09</a>, <a href="#">7/27/06</a> (<a href="#">video</a>), <a href="#">5/13/03</a>, <a href="#">5/2/01</a>, <a href="#">5/17/00</a>, <a href="#">7/10/97</a>. Christy is a climate scientist who works on <a href="#">satellite temperature measurements</a>. Christy's testimony cites Roger Pielke Sr. and his years of work with Spencer. In legal testimony, he has admitted that <a href="#">global warming is manmade</a> and that rapid, disruptive climate change is possible.</p>
<p><b>John Coleman:</b> <a href="#">4/7/09</a>. Coleman is a <a href="#">reporter</a>. His testimony cites McIntyre, Pielke Sr, Michaels, and Soon.</p>	<p><b>William M. Gray:</b> <a href="#">9/28/05</a>. Gray is a <a href="#">hurricane forecaster</a> now with the <a href="#">Marshall Institute</a>.</p>
<p><b>Michael Crichton:</b> <a href="#">9/28/05</a>. Crichton was a <a href="#">science fiction author</a>. He cited McIntyre.</p>	<p><b>David Legates:</b> <a href="#">7/29/03</a>, <a href="#">3/13/02</a>. Legates is a <a href="#">climate geographer</a>.</p>
<p><b>Will Happer:</b> <a href="#">5/20/10</a>, <a href="#">2/25/09</a>. Happer is a <a href="#">nuclear physicist</a>.</p>	<p><b>Dick Lindzen</b> <a href="#">5/2/01</a>, <a href="#">7/10/97</a>, <a href="#">1991</a> (Senate), <a href="#">10/8/91</a>. Lindzen is a climate scientist who studies atmospheric dynamics. Lindzen's claims of an <a href="#">extremely low climate sensitivity</a> to increases in greenhouse gases, similar to his U.S. testimony, has been <a href="#">rebutted</a>.</p>
<p><b>Myron Ebell</b> <a href="#">4/22/09</a> (<a href="#">video</a>), <a href="#">12/19/07</a>. Ebell is a Competitive Enterprise Institute <a href="#">political operative</a>.</p>	<p><b>Pat Michaels:</b> <a href="#">2/12/09</a>, <a href="#">7/25/02</a>, <a href="#">10/6/99</a> <a href="#">7/29/98</a>, <a href="#">11/6/97</a>, <a href="#">6/26/97</a>, <a href="#">1993</a>, <a href="#">5/28/92</a> (<a href="#">mock hearing</a>), <a href="#">1989</a>. Michaels is a <a href="#">climate scientist</a> who is now a policy expert for the Koch-founded Cato Institute.</p>
<p><b>Stephen McIntyre:</b> <a href="#">7/27/06</a> (<a href="#">video</a>). McIntyre is a mining executive. He cites the <a href="#">Wegman Report</a>, which is based on his own work.</p>	<p><b>Roger Pielke Sr:</b> <a href="#">6/26/08</a>, <a href="#">7/25/02</a>. Pielke Sr. is a climate scientist who works on mesoscale meteorology and <a href="#">climate variability</a>.</p>
<p><b>Chris Monckton:</b> <a href="#">5/6/10</a> (<a href="#">video</a>). Monckton is a <a href="#">political operative</a>. He cites Happer and Lindzen. His testimony has been <a href="#">rebutted</a> by a <a href="#">team of climate scientists</a>.</p>	<p><b>Fred Singer:</b> <a href="#">7/18/00</a>, <a href="#">5/28/92</a> (<a href="#">mock hearing</a>). Singer is a <a href="#">climate scientist</a> associated with <a href="#">several tobacco and fossil-industry think tanks</a>.</p>
<p><b>Iain Murray:</b> <a href="#">10/29/09</a> (<a href="#">video</a>). Murray is a political commentator. His testimony cites Pielke Jr.</p>	<p><b>Roy Spencer:</b> <a href="#">7/22/08</a> (<a href="#">video</a>), <a href="#">3/19/07</a>. Spencer is a climate scientist who works on <a href="#">satellite temperature measurements</a>. His testimony cites Lindzen.</p>
<p><b>Roger Pielke Jr*:</b> <a href="#">5/16/07</a>, <a href="#">1/30/07</a> (<a href="#">video</a>), <a href="#">7/20/06</a>, <a href="#">3/13/02</a>. Roger Pielke Jr. is a <a href="#">political scientist</a> who studies the economic impacts of climate disasters. Pielke Jr does not dispute the existence of man-made global warming, but <a href="#">criticizes climate scientists</a> and <a href="#">policymakers</a>.</p>	
<p><b>Willie Soon:</b> <a href="#">7/29/03</a>. Soon is an astrophysicist.</p>	

\*Roger Pielke Jr. has informed the Wonk Room that at least one of the times he testified was at the invitation of the Democrats.

The two decades that have been polluted by these experts of doubt have been by far the hottest on record, containing 18 of the 20 hottest years on record. The past decade is similarly the hottest on record, with 9 of the 10 hottest years on record. As predicted, storms, droughts, wildfires, and floods have been growing more extreme, ice from the Alps to the Arctic has melted away, sea levels have been rising, while the rate of greenhouse pollution has significantly increased.

Update Subcommittee Chairman Brian Baird tells [Politico](#) why he is holding this hearing:

**We are the Committee on Science and Technology, not the Committee on Superstition and Political Pandering.** This is a chance to go back and look at the basics, to start with the physics and the science of it all and work our way up.