



Kerry overstates warming trend, says climate expert

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May 11, 2016

Secretary of State John Kerry continues to sound the alarm over what he calls "climate change," but not everyone is concerned.

A recent example of Secretary Kerry's concerns involves his commencement address at Northeastern University last Friday. While urging students to work together and find solutions to problems, Kerry brought up the recent agreement between the U.S. and other nations to curb emissions – something various governments and leaders point to as the cause for warmer temperatures and bigger, more powerful storms.

"Last March was the hottest March in recorded history, last year the hottest year in recorded history. The last ten years the hottest decade in recorded history, the one before that the second hottest, the one before that the third hottest," Kerry said. "The facts are simply staggering."

Pat Michaels, Ph.D., a past president of the American Association of State Climatologists who now works for the Center for the Study of Science at the Cato Institute, says no one should care whether global temperatures are high.

"The question is, 'How high are they compared to where they were forecast to be?'" argues Michaels. "And it's very clear – very, very clear – that the computer models that are used by these bureaucrats to try and serve as the excuse for expensive and ineffective policies, that those models predicted way too much warming."

According to Michaels, what is being experienced is actually modest warming. "I call it a 'lukewarming,'" he adds, "which you can't do anything about – and it's probably beneficial anyway."

Even so, Kerry told graduates not to believe the "doubters who claim that we have to make a choice between protecting the environment or growing the economy." Calling that a lie, Kerry said there are "millions of jobs to be created, businesses to be built, [and] fortunes to be made in tapping the potential of renewable energy."

Michaels response? "If the students at Northeastern University have been taught critical thinking skills, they would ask some very serious questions about the climate change portion of this speech," he states.