

Beijing isn't green

By The Washington Times

7:25 p.m., Friday, January 21, 2011

[Patrick J. Michaels'](#) Tuesday column on [NASA](#) laboratory head [James E. Hansen's](#) anti-democracy rant about how the Chinese dictatorship can better fight climate change was revealing about the mindset of green fanatics in the [United States](#) ("China-style dictatorship of climatologists," Commentary). It also exposed [Mr. Hansen's](#) ignorance about actual Chinese policy. Beijing will pursue energy efficiency where it makes sense, but it has never accepted global warming as a constraint on economic growth.

[China's](#) position has been clear at the [United Nations](#) climate negotiations. Just before the 2009 Copenhagen conference, it led [India](#), [Brazil](#) and [South Africa](#) in a common front against any imposed [U.N.](#) cuts on emissions and rejected the use of trade barriers as a way to impose penalties on those who don't reduce emissions.

[Mr. Hansen's](#) notion that [China](#) would impose such barriers against the [United States](#) is absurd and indicates he is completely out of touch with history.

Before last month's Cancun climate conference, the ruling Communist Party's newspaper, the Global Times, editorialized, "[China's](#) greenhouse gas emissions probably will not peak until 2035. ... Its national conditions have made it fundamentally impossible for [China](#) to take action in accordance with the low-carbon standards of the Western countries. ... It is [China's](#) national interests to protect its right to develop."

Beijing's stance at the [U.N.](#) - supported by the entire developing world - has blocked any anti-growth climate treaty. For that, we should be thankful.

WILLIAM R. HAWKINS

Burke, Va.

© Copyright 2011 The Washington Times, LLC. [Click here for reprint permission.](#)