

## **Climate Change Sceptic Scientist Was Heavily Funded by Oil Industry**

**We suspect you may not hear as much barking over this story as we did when climate change advocates were called to the carpet over some questionably manipulated data, but it's come to light that Patrick Michaels, a senior fellow in environmental studies at the Cato Institute who testified about his scepticism regarding climate change to the House Energy and Commerce Committee in February, 2009, completely misled Congress in regards to how much of his funding came from the oil industry. And by oil industry we mean the Koch brothers.**

Why it's a shock is a question to us, since the Cato Institute is a think tank that was founded by the billionaire oil Koch brothers (Charles and David) to promote their libertarian, anti-government views. At the time that Michaels testified before Congress, he was the only one in the expert line-up who cast doubt on global warming, testifying that the threat posed by climate change had been exaggerated. At the time, the committee was headed by Henry Waxman (D, California).

However, Representative Fred Upton (R, Michigan) will be taking over that committee, and in a letter to Upton, Waxman reveals that he believes that Michaels misled the committee back in 2009. At the time, Michaels claimed that three percent of his \$4.2 million of financial support came from the oil and gas industry. However, during an appearance on CNN in August of 2010 (as well as in subsequent interviews), Michaels has suggested that the actual percentage is closer to forty percent.

Wrote Waxman, in a letter released this week, "Michaels may have provided misleading information about the sources of his funding and his ties to the industries opposed to regulation of emissions responsible for climate change." Waxman also called upon Upton to call upon Michaels to clarify the sources of his funding.

We suspect the new Republican leadership will be too busy dismembering the EPA to follow up on an investigation of Michaels, but we hope we're proven wrong. Want to make sure we're still in touch if we're wrong so that you can point it out? **Like us on Facebook to keep up-to-date on environment, climate change and the government**