

Record Searchlight

A denier claims to prove me wrong (2)

By: Doug Craig – April 19, 2013

I received an e-mail today from Len, a climate change denier. And he included numerous sources for his denial. He wrote, "So here is a list for you to frequent. It will be difficult for you to deny the references to peer-reviewed literature among these bloggers many of whom are scientists."

Ok so here is what I will concede. Out of my eight points in that blog, I will concede that one *may be* wrong. I wrote, "Each of their postings contains words and assertions but *no evidence, sources or facts* that can be checked."

I say "may be wrong" because I am still waiting for deniers of climate change to *actually provide us with scientific evidence, sources or facts* that can be checked against the evidence, sources and facts I have been providing for the last 1300-plus blogs over the last 44 months.

While I continue to provide references to the most reputable scientific sources in the world, Len effectively proves that he has nothing to compare with this. His first trustworthy source is JunkScience.com, "a website maintained by Steven J. Milloy, an adjunct scholar the Cato Institute and the Competitive Enterprise Institute."

Deniers of global climate change do not have any scientific organizations to turn to when they attempt to prove their claims. Instead they turn to "right wing think tanks with long histories of denying environmental problems at the behest of the corporations which fund them."

Which is exactly what I have long claimed. Most prominent individuals who deny the climate is warming due to human activity are associated with right-wing think tanks, conservative media organizations like Fox News or fossil fuel companies like ExxonMobil or Koch Industries that clearly benefit from climate change denial.

They are not scientists. Or if they are, they are not climate scientists. Or in the very few cases where they might be described as a climate scientist, they are not held in high esteem by the scientific community and most importantly *have not published any scientific papers that refute the prevailing consensus that humans are responsible for global warming.*

While I list the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the National Academy of Sciences, the United States Global Change Research Program, Britain's Royal Society, the German Council on Global Change (WBGU), the American Academy for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the American Meteorological Society (AMS), the American Geophysical Union (AGU), and

the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Len turns to Steve Milloy who is not a climate scientist but "a columnist for FoxNews.com."

How does this not prove my point?

Milloy "regularly attacks environmentalists and scientists who support environmentalism, claiming that dioxin, pesticides in foods, environmental lead, asbestos, secondhand tobacco smoke and global warming are all 'scares' and 'scams.'"

This is Len's first trustworthy source. How does this prove anything about climate science? "Milloy's attacks are often notable for their vicious tone, which appears calculated to lower rather than elevate scientific discourse."

Len's expert on climate science used to work for Multinational Business Services, "Philip Morris tobacco company's primary lobbyist in Washington with respect to the issue of secondhand cigarette smoke."

Milloy is also a former lobbyist for National Environmental Policy Institute (NEPI)"funded by Occidental Petroleum which had problems with the government over a Superfund toxic spill cleanup. NEPI had links to The Center for Strategic and International Studies and to the Air Quality Standards Coalition fighting against pollution controls."

Milloy also worked for "Regulatory Impact Analysis Project, Inc. a front group for the energy industry, that was fighting \$400 million in Superfund clean ups."

Although Milloy frequently represents himself as an expert on scientific matters, he is not a scientist himself. He holds a bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences, a law degree and a master's degree in biostatistics. He has never published original research in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Moreover, he has made scientific claims himself that have no basis in actual research. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, for example, he claimed that greater use of asbestos insulation in the World Trade Towers would have delayed their collapse 'by up to four hours.' In reality, there is no scientific basis for claiming that asbestos would have delayed their collapse by even a second, let alone four hours."

When I claimed deniers of climate change never show their cards, in Len's case, I was wrong. I was wrong. He offers us at least half a deck of his most trustworthy sources. So far I have only had time to look at one card. And once again, in trying to prove their point that there is science behind their denial, *they actually prove my point that the only thing behind their denial are more deniers just like them.*