



Only as good as your sources (10)

Doug Craig
May 5, 2012 11:51 PM

I have a single premise with this series of blogs. Science, science, science.

Either science matters or it doesn't. Until Skeptic or the other deniers come up with a superior form of knowledge, I am going to stick with science. They can say all they want but the facts are the facts. They have no science. None. Every single claim made is never backed up with reference to a mainline science source. Never. Never! Ne-ver.

So what are their sources? Always political. Never science. It is intellectually dishonest to claim you are discussing a scientific issue like global climate change and fail to produce any science to support your claims. Never. Are you not proving my point every time you post a response with several paragraphs and not include a single, scientific source? Aren't you admitting there isn't any scientific basis for anything you say?

Look at the title of this blog. **Only as good as your sources.** Either you have scientific sources or you don't. Perhaps it is time to come clean. The Spocks can return home and I can end this series and we can all move on.

I provide data from the [National Academy of Sciences](#). If you don't fully understand that the [NAS](#) is the most prestigious scientific institution in the history of the United States, you don't know science or history. Approximately ten percent of NAS members have won the Nobel Prize. And the response? What source is chosen in response? They don't even attempt to find a scientific source.

Instead, they go to [Steven Milloy](#) and his website, [JunkScience.com](#). You may not know this but JunkScience.com is not a scientific website. It is maintained by Milloy, "**an adjunct scholar for the [Cato Institute](#) and the [Competitive Enterprise Institute](#).**" These two right wing think tanks are not scientific institutions. They have nothing to do with science. Milloy is not a scientist but is a "**columnist for Fox News and a paid advocate for Phillip Morris, ExxonMobil and other corporations.**"

So why should we care what he says? It is like your plumber giving you medical advice. It is like consulting with your car mechanic when your daughter is struggling with a learning disability. No, it is actually worse than this. It is like asking someone who works with Altria (which used to be known as Philip Morris), **"one of the world's largest tobacco corporations"** on the planet, if you should quit smoking or not. That is your trusted source?

Please Mr. Skeptic and the rest of the denier team. Please explain why you can't produce any scientific evidence for your position.

Milloy is your source, an adjunct scholar (not a climate scientist) with the Cato Institute, a right wing think tank, not a scientific organization. The Cato Institute accepts money from Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds, Chevron Companies, ExxonMobil, Shell Oil Company and Tenneco Gas, as well as the American Petroleum Institute, Amoco Foundation and Atlantic Richfield Foundation (ARCO).

Do you think it is possible that companies that benefit from global warming might pay people like Steven Milloy to lie on their behalf? I think that is possible. Like it's possible the Sun will rise tomorrow.

Between 1985 and 2001, the Cato Institute received \$15,718,040 in 112 grants from only ten conservative foundations, including the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation and the David H Koch Foundation. **The Koch Brothers** are the two richest **climate deniers on the planet** and have spent millions to confuse the public on climate change. This is your source. I have to tell you the Spocks are really confused. They came a long long way to review the science on both sides of this contentious issue. And they are still waiting for yours.

I offer science and they respond with Steven Milloy, a conservative hack and **a "columnist for Fox News and a paid advocate for Phillip Morris, ExxonMobil and other corporations."** This is who they trust? They cannot trust climate scientists but they trust someone who accepts money from the richest corporations on Earth that are major greenhouse gas emitters.

"In January 2006, Paul D. Thacker, a journalist who specializes in science, medicine and environmental topics, reported in The New Republic that Milloy has received thousands of dollars in payments from the Phillip Morris company since

the early nineties, and that NGOs controlled by Milloy have received large payments from ExxonMobil."

One more thing about your trusted source. Milloy once "(C)riticized the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for claiming that 400,000 people die every year from alleged smoking-related illnesses, saying that studies linking smoking to heart disease are not entirely reliable. He pointed out that smokers have higher heart disease rates than non-smokers partly because smokers also tend to be people who do not exercise, have worse diets, avoid doctors and have less healthy lifestyles overall."

The guy who receives money from cigarette companies and claims there is no connection between smoking and heart disease is the same guy who accepts money from oil companies and claims there is no connection between greenhouse gas emissions and global climate change.

The Spocks are bored and want to know if you are going to give them any science to review.