

Deconstructing our local denier, Dr. Keye

By: Doug Craig – July 30, 2013

Dr. John Keye is a retired physician and well-known conservative whose political views appear to inform his view of science. According to me.

Dr. Keye does not believe that humans are responsible for our current warming despite the fact that 97 percent of studies published since 1991 state that this is true. Like other deniers of global climate change, Keye pays no attention to the scientific literature as he asserts his strong belief about what that very science states. Curious.

In his recent letter to the editor of the Record Searchlight, Keye makes the unsupportable and false claim that our planet is not warming, "even though atmospheric CO₂ levels continue to rise," and then mentions "meteorologists and nuts-and-bolts weather scientists are introducing peer-reviewed articles all over the world that refute the so-called scientific consensus known as catastrophic global warming."

Anyone know what a "nuts-and-bolts weather scientist" is?

I find it worth noting that Keye does *not* claim there are any climate scientists or climatologists who are publishing any peer-reviewed science refuting human-caused global warming, just meteorologists and those "nuts-and-bolts weather scientists." I wonder what the difference is between a meteorologist and a weather scientist. Or how does a regular weather scientist differ from a "nuts-and-bolts" one. Maybe Dr. Keye will write in to tell us.

Keye claims there are many of these meteorologists and weather scientists "all over the world," publishing all these peer-reviewed studies but he could only come up with one guy who, as it turns out, is neither a meteorologist nor a "nuts-and-bolts weather scientist".

In fact, according to DeSmogBlog, Syun-Ichi Akasofu's peer-reviewed publications are in the field of Geophysics (not climate science) and he has admitted that he has no expertise in the field of climatology. But he is Keye's expert on climate science.

Does anyone else find it interesting that the deniers *know* that humans are not causing the climate to warm and they *know* the science has proven this to be true but they can't come up with any climate scientists who agree with this? Not one.

Instead, they must look for experts *outside* of climatology to refute the science because the scientists who regularly publish in the field accept the scientific consensus that we are heating up our atmosphere with our greenhouse gases. Inconvenient fact, that one.

According to DeSmogBlog Akasofu's "areas of expertise are physics and geophysics," not climate science and "is a well-known climate change skeptic" who spoke at the Heartland Institute's Second International Conference on Climate Change. Sponsor organizations of the conference accepted "over \$47 million from energy companies and right-wing foundations."

In 2009, Akasofu signed a full-page ad funded by the CATO institute that appeared in numerous newspapers including the Washington Post, the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune that stated, "there has been no net global warming for over a decade," and how global warming is "grossly overstated."

Sourcewatch wrote, "Where ideology and science part company, Cato favors ideology." Cato was originally funded by the Koch Brothers (who have made and continue to make billions of dollars from exploiting fossil fuels) and one of them sits on their board. They also accept funding from the American Petroleum Institute and ExxonMobil.

Keye's source then is not a climate scientist who has published peer-reviewed papers that refute the consensus view that humans are warming the climate. Instead his source is just another climate change denier like Keye who attempts to pass off his opinions as if they are facts. He is an 82-year-old scientist who has no expertise in climatology but is willing to serve as a contrarian spokesman for the denier community who try to pass him off as a credible source.

Only the denier choir is fooled.