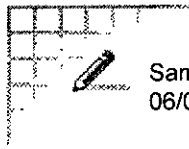


GP 39P



Samuel A. Thernstrom
06/09/2002 03:32:00 PM

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Subject: letters to the editor re: USCAR

CEQ's letter to the editor will supposedly appear in tomorrow's paper -- or, rather, a version of it that the Times edited to remove language that they felt might "dangerously confuse" their readers by denying that the USCAR was a shift in White House policy....

NYT, June 9, 2002
Climate Policy: Heat and Sparks

To the Editor:

Re "U.S. Sees Problems in Climate Change" (front page, June 3):

My office looks out on the Hudson River. Although the work is not finished, there are few success stories greater than the salvation of this river. It is a testament to public involvement and government recognition of our responsibility as stewards of the foundation of this country, the very land we stand on.

How heartbreaking that this administration can do no better than ask us to adapt to the "inevitable." Combined with its backward-thinking energy policy, only its unwillingness to ask the American people and industry to make any sacrifices or changes makes the destruction of our environment inevitable.

If this government threw its true weight behind alternative energy, fuel efficiency and real environmental policies, miracles could be worked. LINDA HACKER-TONER
Piermont, N.Y., June 3, 2002

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To the Editor:

I tell my students that the defenders of business-as-usual on climate change began telling us 20 years ago that concern about global warming was not scientifically justified. Then, a decade ago, they said yes, concern is justified, but we have ample time to prevent it. Now, a decade later, they are saying it is too late to prevent major climate change, and we have no choice but to adapt to it (front page, June 3).

Remarkably, the Bush administration has collapsed this string of evasions into half a presidential term. Here is the truth of the matter: there is no way that societies will be able to adapt to the climate change that will occur in this century unless we get serious now about prevention. JAMES GUSTAVE SPETH

New Haven, June 4, 2002

The writer is dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale and a former head of the United Nations Development Program.

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To the Editor:

Bob Herbert ("Ignoring a Growing Peril," column, June 6) accepts the claim of a government report that the climate is warming and that human activities are responsible. But the balance of the observational evidence does not support such a claim.

The government report to the United Nations is a routine document. President Bush called it "the report put out by the bureaucracy."

The E.P.A. compilers of the report have rehashed a study completed under the former administration. In fact, the acting director of the White House science office, a Clinton appointee, acknowledged last September that the study did not reflect "policy positions or official statements of the U.S. government."

S. FRED SINGER

Arlington, Va., June 6, 2002

The writer, professor emeritus at the University of Virginia, is a former deputy assistant administrator of the E.P.A.

To the Editor:

Bob Herbert's June 6 column, "Ignoring a Growing Peril," makes clear that the people will have to lead the effort to forestall global warming. This means using less energy, driving smaller cars, keeping the house warmer in summer and cooler in winter and so on.

As in the past, if the people lead, the leaders will have no choice but to follow. KINNAN O'CONNELL
Larchmont, N.Y., June 6, 2002

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