



Anti-Science Climate Denier Caucus

114th Congress

After the warmest year in recorded history, a shocking number of congressional Republicans—more than 56 percent—continue to deny or question the science behind human-caused climate change.¹

As it returns to the nation's capital, the new Republican-controlled Congress has made it clear that it has no intention of prioritizing action on climate change. In fact, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and the new head of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK), have vowed to stop the Environmental Protection Agency's, or EPA's, attempt to curb carbon pollution and slow the devastating effects of climate change.⁶

Colorado

As a candidate in the 2014 campaign, **Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO)** participated in a debate hosted by the *Denver Post* where he was asked to answer yes or no if humans are contributing significantly to climate change. Sen. Gardner responded, "Well, I've said all along climate is changing," which earned him a reprimand from the moderators who reminded him it was a one-word answer. "This is an important issue and I don't think you can say yes or no," Gardner continued, earning jeers from the audience. "I believe climate is changing, but I disagree to the extent that's been in the news that man is changing."⁷ Below are additional members of the Colorado caucus who also doubt the science behind climate change:

Rep. Ken Buck (R-CO-04): "Sen. Inhofe was the first person to stand up and say this global warming is the greatest hoax that has been perpetrated. The evidence just keeps supporting his view, and more and more people's view, of what's going on."⁸

Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO-06): "Climate change is naturally occurring. What influence do we have over that, we certainly need to look into, but that's subject to debate."⁹



Here are the facts:

Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that current human activity is contributing to the warming atmosphere and causing the global climate to change.²

One hundred sixty-nine Republicans in the 114th Congress are on record questioning or denying the science behind climate change.³

Fifty-three percent—or 131 members—**of the House Republican caucus** question or deny the science behind climate change.⁴

Seventy percent—or 38 members—**of the Senate Republican caucus** question or deny the science behind climate change.⁵

Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO-05): According to *The Mountain Mail*, “Lamborn said there are ‘a lot of contentious facts and claims about global warming and whether it is man made.’ However, he said there is ‘not much unanimity’ about it. At that statement many audience members commented that 98 percent was ‘pretty unanimous.’ Lamborn said he spoke to a scientist who believes that global warming is man-made and ‘should materialize’ 50–100 years from now. He said there are issues that need dealing with now. Eckler asked again if he would listen to the evidence claiming global warming is here and now. After more back-and-forth on the issue, Lamborn said, ‘I think we’ve beaten this horse to a pulp. I’m listening to all sides.’”¹⁰

Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO-03): “Here in the state of Colorado as our tree rings demonstrate, we’ve had droughts long before there were very many people here.” In an interview with ThinkProgress, Rep. Tipton said that acknowledging that humans can affect the climate is futile because it would “divide America.”¹¹

Endnotes

- 1 Justin Gillis, “2014 Was the Warmest Year Ever Recorded on Earth,” *The New York Times*, January 16, 2015, available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/17/science/earth/2014-was-hottest-year-on-record-surpassing-2010.html?hp&action=click&pgtype=Homepage&module=first-column-region®ion=top-news&WT.nav=top-news>; Tiffany Germain, Kristen Ellingboe, and Kiley Kroh, “The Anti-Science Climate Denier Caucus: 114th Congress Edition,” *ClimateProgress*, January 8, 2015, available at <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/01/08/3608427/climate-denier-caucus-114th-congress/>.
- 2 Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet, “Consensus: 97% of climate scientists agree,” available at <http://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/> (last accessed January 2015).
- 3 Germain, Ellingboe, and Kroh, “The Anti-Science Climate Denier Caucus.”
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Timothy Cama, “Senate GOP steeling for battle against EPA,” *The Hill*, November 9, 2014, available at <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/e2-wire/223398-senate-gop-steeling-for-battle-against-the-epa>; Timothy Cama, “Senator maps strategy against EPA rules,” *The Hill*, January 7, 2015, available at <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/228826-senator-maps-gop-strategy-against-epa-rules>.
- 7 Jane C. Timm, “GOP Senate candidate won’t answer on climate change,” *MSNBC*, October 8, 2014, available at <http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/gop-senate-candidate-wont-answer-climate-change>.
- 8 Robert Moore, “Buck makes stop in Fort Collins, discusses statement making headlines this week,” *coloradoan.com*, October 21, 2010, available at <http://archive.coloradoan.com/article/20101021/NEWS03/10210366>.
- 9 Sophie Quinton, “As Politicians Debate Climate Change, Our Forest Wither,” *The Atlantic*, June 15, 2012, available at <http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2012/06/as-politicians-debate-climate-change-our-forests-wither/258549/>.
- 10 Cailey McDermott, “Browns Canyon proposal needs consensus, Lamborn says,” *The Mountain Mail*, June 3, 2013, available at http://www.themountainmail.com/news/article_61e3ab96-cc59-11e2-a968-0019bb30f31a.html.
- 11 Scott Keyes, “GOP Rep Tipton Won’t Acknowledge Human-Caused Climate Change Because It Would ‘Divide America,’” *ClimateProgress*, August 23, 2012, available at <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2012/08/23/734181/scott-tipton-climate-change/>.