

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

It was June of 1995, a beautiful day in Colorado, and an excellent day for whitewater kayaking. My paddling companions and I were taking a brief rest in a river eddy on the Arkansas River at the bottom of Royal Gorge in Colorado. The blue-green river had narrowed to about 50 feet wide as it roared between the reddish-brown granite cliffs of the gorge. We leaned back in our kayaks to look up more than a thousand feet to the suspension bridge, which appeared tiny at the top of the canyon. What a magnificent world this is.

For more than three decades, when family and work allowed, I've enjoyed kayaking many of the whitewater rivers of the United States and Canada. I've navigated the rapids of several rivers on the Cumberland Plateau in eastern Tennessee, the home of Al Gore. I've camped by tent and trailer throughout North America with my family and friends. I've enjoyed many national parks and forests. These experiences are among my favorite memories.

No one wants to see Earth's air polluted, rivers dirtied, or oceans fouled. We *all* want to pass a better world on to our children. But our policies must be based on logic and sound science, not propaganda and fear.

For several years, I've watched the global-warming debate from afar. An occasional news report one decade ago has grown into a blizzard of news broadcasts, books, YouTube video clips, and movies. Most of this communication has proclaimed that Earth is warming;

that our industrial civilization is the cause; and increasingly, that we are on the road to climate catastrophe.

Despite the avalanche of publicity decrying man-made global warming, I wondered whether it all really made sense. Most news stories pointed to a weather event, such as Hurricane Katrina or catastrophic fires in Australia, and then jumped to the conclusion that the event was caused by human industry. Discussion of the science behind such conclusions was rarely included in the story.

Predictions announced that, by the year 2100, icecaps will melt, seas will inundate, and catastrophic hurricanes will destroy, among many other disasters destined to plague us all. But then my local meteorologist would be wrong on his five-day weather forecast. How is it possible that predictions for the year 2100 can be accurate, but not forecasts for the weekend?

As I read alarmist books on human-caused global warming, a pattern began to emerge. Most books spend 10–20 pages on the science of climate change, and then hundreds of pages on the impacts and possible remedies. These books rely almost entirely on findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations for their science, and *assume* that the IPCC is correct.

At the same time, I discovered a growing group of scientists who, I believe, are climate realists, but are called “skeptics” (or worse) by the news media. These technologists are increasingly convinced that our globe is warming, but that the warming is due to natural, rather than man-made causes. Their arguments proved persuasive and moved me decisively into the skeptic camp. Most astonishing, the science clearly shows that global warming is due to natural causes, despite the tidal wave of world belief in man-made climate change.

Once convinced that mankind was heading down the wrong track, I felt compelled to add my voice to the debate. Exaggerations by Al Gore, James Hansen, and others added fuel to my fire to write. This book is the result.

Whether global warming is being caused by humanity should be decided by science, not by politics. The climate and energy policies of the nations of the world should be based on valid science, sound economics, and common sense. Unfortunately, as we shall see, this is currently not the case. Let me state up front that I am not in the pay of any energy company, or any other organization with a vested interest in the debate.