
From: Turton Nick (DECC)
To: PS/Ed Miliband (DECC), DECC Chief Science Advisor, Cavendish Will (International Energy and Technology), PS/Joan Ruddock (DECC), Meah Nafees (DECC), REDACTED REDACTED, REDACTED REDACTED, REDACTED REDACTED, REDACTED REDACTED, REDACTED REDACTED, Perm Sec (DECC), PS.Special Advisers (DECC), REDACTED REDACTED

Cc:
Sent: 05/02/2010 at 17:36
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Subject: FW: Letter for publication on 'climategate'

Attachments: Letter for publication.doc (27 KB)

To be aware. Helpful letter on science to Times from heavyweights.

From: REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED REDACTED
Sent: 05 February 2010 17:17
To: Turton Nick (DECC)
Subject: Letter for publication on 'climategate'

Dear Nick, please find attached a letter forwarded to The Times this afternoon for publication. The letter, regarding the recent controversies around climate change science, has a number of signatories.

The signatories are:

Lord Browne of Madingley
Lord Giddens
Lord Krebs
Richard Lambert
Lord Lewis of Newnham
Lord May of Oxford
Lord Oxburgh
Lord Puttnam
Lord Rees of Ludlow
Earl of Selborne
Lord Smith of Finsbury
Lord Stern of Brentford
Lord Stone of Blackheath
Lord Turner of Ecchinswell
Lord Whitty
Baroness Young of Old Scone

Kind regards, REDACTED

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Letter on climate change science controversies

The recent controversies around climate science are deeply disappointing and threaten to undermine progress towards, and public support for, a global deal to reduce emissions building on the Copenhagen Accord.

There are important issues about scientific process and conduct that must and will be addressed by the IPCC and the University of East Anglia. Openness to scrutiny is important both for the integrity of science and public confidence in it.

However, we are concerned that the continued media furore around these issues is skewing the debate on climate change.

Sceptics and parts of the media have seized the opportunity to claim that the whole edifice of climate change science is crumbling. This is far from the truth.

We urge the media, the public, policy makers and the scientific community to calm their nerves and take a proportionate look at the evidence as a whole. What the overwhelming body of peer-reviewed scientific evidence shows is that climate change is happening and is very likely to be caused by human activity.

Yes, there is uncertainty in the science, and there probably always will be. But the uncertainties are not primarily about whether or not climate change is happening, but about how fast change will come and how bad it will be.

The challenge is one of the management of risk, and none of the evidence implies that we can be confident that the risks are small. On the contrary, taken together, the evidence strongly suggests that the risks are major and delay in action is dangerous.

We must maintain our resolve to focus on the real issues. What matters is how we get global emissions to peak and start to decline in not much more than a decade; reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050; how we shift to a low carbon economy; how we will adapt our communities and infrastructure to more extreme events, such as flooding, drought and sea level rise; and how we will change behaviours and values so that we can all live in a cleaner, more sustainable world.

We should not gloss over the problems that have occurred in the past few months but equally we should not let them prevent us from getting on with the jobs that really need doing.

5 February 2010

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