



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

Georgia

Newly elected **Sen. David Perdue (R-GA)** questions the science behind climate change: “The EPA is really overreaching and damaging entire industries. We’ve got to get some common sense back in Washington—in science, there’s an active debate going on.”⁷ Below are additional members of the Georgia caucus who also doubt the science behind climate change:

Rep. Rick Allen (R-GA-12): During a debate, Rep. Allen was asked, “Do you believe manmade greenhouse gas emissions are a major source of climate change?” He responded, “The answer is no.”⁸

Rep. Buddy Carter (R-GA-01): Rep. Carter said, “Certainly we have to pay attention to [climate change]. There’s no doubt about that. But I do have reservations about how real it is.”⁹

Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA-09): Rep. Collins answered “no” when asked by a Vote Smart questionnaire if he believes human activity is contributing to climate change.¹⁰



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. Jody Hice (R-GA-10): Rep. Hice said, “The Radical Environmental Movement with former Vice President Al Gore as its poster boy has propagandized the theory of impending environmental disaster due to ‘Global Warming.’... The theory is that so-called global warming is caused by greenhouse gases caused by carbon-based fuels.”¹¹

Rep. Tom Price (R-GA-06): Rep. Price said, “This decision goes against all common sense, especially considering the many recent revelations of errors and obfuscation in the allegedly ‘settled science’ of global warming.”¹²

Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (R-GA-03): Rep. Westmoreland co-filed a petition to the EPA to reconsider its Endangerment Finding on greenhouse gases. The petition said that, “Climategate reveals a serious lack of integrity in the underlying data and models, such that it is doubtful that any process can be trusted until the data and models are validated and their integrity assured.”¹³

Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA): Sen. Isakson said, “Science has shown us that there has been a gradual warming of the earth over the last 50 years. What is not as clear is whether the cause for this warming is man-made emissions, a cyclical warming of the planet, or a combination of both. Given the uncertainty in the science behind climate change, I believe that we should take proactive steps, both personally and as a nation, to reduce our emissions footprint.”¹⁴

In addition to Congress, Georgia’s governor also questions the science behind climate change. **Gov. Nathan Deal (R)** has said of global warming, “It is an argument and a debate that will continue in this country and I have no reason to become engaged in it other than to say I’m the governor of this state.”¹⁵

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," *Climate Progress*, 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-steel-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 David Weigel, "How Red Can You Get?," *Slate*, May 16, 2014, available at http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2014/05/georgia_s_republican_party_senate_primary_karen_handel_jack_kingston_and.2.html.
- 8 Alan Wood, "Rep. John Barrow and Rick Allen Debate in Augusta, GA," YouTube, September 29, 2014, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D56lBsT9WHk>.
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- 10 Vote Smart, "Georgia Congressional Election 2012 Political Courage Test," available at <http://votesmart.org/candidate/political-courage-test/67851/doug-collins/> (last accessed January 2015).
- 11 Jody Hice for U.S. Congress, "Tax and Kill," Wayback Machine, available at https://web.archive.org/web/20100715104711/http://www.jodyhice.com/issues/tax_kill.html (last accessed January 2015).
- 12 Republican Study Committee, "Republicans Continue to Fight National Energy Tax," Press release, March 2, 2010, available at <http://rsc.flores.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=174274>.
- 13 Rep. John Linder and others, "Petition for Reconsideration of 'Endangerment and Cause or Contribute Findings for Greenhouse Gases Under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act'" (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2009), available at http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/Downloads/endangerment/Petition_for_Reconsideration_Southeastern_Legal_Foundation.pdf.
- 14 Senator Johnny Isakson, "Johnny Isakson's Position Statement on Energy and the Environment," Wayback Machine, available at <https://web.archive.org/web/20110106102800/http://isakson.senate.gov/energy.html>.
- 15 Jonathan Shapiro, "Deal Goes After Jason Carter For Grandfather's Comments On Carbon Tax," 90.1 FM WABE, August 14, 2014, available at <http://wabe.org/post/deal-goes-after-jason-carter-grandfathers-comments-carbon-tax>.