



AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY

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KEITH L. SEITTER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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13 March 2017

Scott Pruitt, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt,

In a recent CNBC interview, you stated that you do not agree that carbon dioxide is the primary driver of the global warming revealed by the temperature records over recent decades. In reality, the world's seven billion people are causing climate to change and our emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are the primary cause. This is a conclusion based on the comprehensive assessment of scientific evidence. It is based on multiple independent lines of evidence that have been affirmed by thousands of independent scientists and numerous scientific institutions around the world. We are not familiar with any scientific institution with relevant subject matter expertise that has reached a different conclusion. These indisputable findings have shaped our current AMS Statement on Climate Change, which states¹:

It is clear from extensive scientific evidence that the dominant cause of the rapid change in climate of the past half century is human-induced increases in the amount of atmospheric greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO₂), chlorofluorocarbons, methane, and nitrous oxide. The most important of these over the long term is CO₂, whose concentration in the atmosphere is rising principally as a result of fossil-fuel combustion and deforestation.

We understand and accept that individuals and institutions both public and private can reach differing conclusions on the decisions and actions to be taken in the face of this reality. That's the nature of the political process in a democratic society. But mischaracterizing the science is not the best starting point for a constructive dialogue. We hope that you will reconsider your stance on the science, and then help lead the nation and the world to consider, first, options for action, and then the course to be followed.

The American Meteorological Society and its members have been working on all aspects of this science going back a century. We stand ready to work with you or your staff to advance understanding the science of climate and use those advances for the benefit of the nation and the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith L. Seitter'.

Keith L. Seitter
Executive Director

¹ <https://www.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/about-ams/ams-statements/statements-of-the-ams-in-force/climate-change/>