

## Remarks by George Landrith at press conference announcing the launch of "United for Jobs"

Contributed by George C. Landrith  
Wednesday, 10 March 2004

"To remove sound science from public policy is legislative and regulatory malpractice. To employ junk science in public policy is unethical and irresponsible."  
For Immediate Release

Remarks by George Landrith at press conference announcing the launch of "United for Jobs."

"To remove sound science from public policy is legislative and regulatory malpractice. To employ junk science in public policy is unethical and irresponsible."

The extreme Environmentalist movement, regularly employ junk science in an attempt to scare Americans into accepting their job-killing environmental policies.

They regularly create some urgent and terrible risk to the environment and our health. Then they promise us that if we will give them the power regulate the economy, kill jobs, and increase prices for basic good and services, they will rescue us from the catastrophe that they have predicted.

The problem is, their claims of future catastrophe are based on shoddy junk science. Simply stated, such claims are not true or real. But the economic devastation that they cause is very real. The jobs lost that they cause is very real as well. And poverty has very real costs to families and children and society and health.

To combat shoddy science, we started the Center for Science and Public Policy. Our goal was to bring to bear the best available science on issues of public policy. Public policy should not be based on politically motivated pseudo-science. It should be based on sound science.

Here are two quick examples --

Climate Change --

Extreme environmentalists claim that the climate is warming and that it is man's fault. They tell us the debate is over and that the science is certain. Yet, nothing could be farther from the truth.

There is no reliable scientific data that man is causing a global climate change or that such modest changes would cause real harm. The one constant on earth is that climate has always varied. We have had

ice ages and mini-ice ages and warmer periods too -- many times. None of this is new.

As warm as the alarmist claim it is, the world's current climate is cooler than the average for the last 10,000 years. Yet despite this fact, we are promised by the extreme warming adherents that if we allow them to restrict energy and to

tax energy and to kill jobs, they will save us from warmer temperatures.

Even if you accept their premise and their numbers, the solutions they offer will not solve the problem they claim exists. The claims they make of warmer climates and dire weather events are just so much hot air. Unfortunately, the jobs they would kill are real. The poverty they will inflict on Americans is real and the consequences would be real -- all to fix an imaginary problem.

Mercury --

Extreme environmentalists also argue that mercury levels in fish and the environment pose great danger to women and children and that U.S. power plants must be heavily regulated or shutdown to avert the danger.

Yet, there is no evidence that anyone is being harmed by the historically low levels of mercury in the environment. Remember, that Mercury is a basic element and has and will always exist on the Earth.

Studies of 550-year-old Aleutian mummies show more mercury content than in the people of today.

But perhaps even more important is that U.S. power plants produce less than 1% of world's mercury. Over 50% is completely natural -- from oceans, volcanoes and forest fires. Over 40% is manmade, but not in the

U.S. Asia, Europe, Africa are the biggest producers.

Yet, extreme environmentalists demand that American power plants which produce virtually no mercury (less than 1%) be heavily regulated or shut down.

This won't improve public health, but it will make energy more expensive and scarce. Blackouts and brownouts would be commonplace causing death to the elderly and infirm and the working poor and middle-class would find their incomes consumed in higher electric bills. Energy intensive industries would be hard hit and jobs would

be lost. Again poverty has a real impact on society, families, children and health. But fixing imaginary problems produces no discernible benefit to society.

We all want a clean environment. We all want clean air to breathe and clean water to drink. We want our children to experience the beauty of this wonderful Earth.

We also want jobs and economic opportunity. The good news is we can have both. We cannot leave policy decisions to the purveyors of junk science or to the extreme environmentalists. We must base public policy, not on scare tactics and dire, but baseless predictions. Instead, we must recognize that a strong economy is the best way to protect the environment. With national wealth and resources, we have cleaned the environment and given millions economic opportunities and hope that even a generation ago were unheard of. With greater

resources, we have been able to protect the environment and improve the lives of Americans.

Americans and policy makers must remember -- Jobs are a great economic policy. Jobs are also great for the environment.

(United for Jobs is a coalition of advocacy organizations and think tanks dedicated to job creation, economic growth and stopping the threats to the financial future of American families from environmental extremists.)

For more information:

Jason Wright

(703) 246-0110

[press@ff.org](mailto:press@ff.org)