

January 30, 2017

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

My name is Jonathan Hester, and I am a scientist living in your state in Hudson, WI. I am writing to you about a challenge I am extremely concerned about, Global Climate Change. By reading original technical papers, I have been taking time to study the scientific evidence for global warming, the likely impacts it will have, and approaches to avoiding its worst consequences. I am also trying to help make the original research available and readable to others on my website, [rescuethatfrog.com](http://rescuethatfrog.com). In short, there is a robust scientific consensus that global warming is happening, is caused by humans, and has the real potential to greatly harm Earth's capacity to support human life. Between 97% and 99.99% of scientists believe this.<sup>1-3</sup> Because of this near-unanimous scientific consensus, I am frustrated and concerned that 34% of U.S. Congress members have made public statements expressing skepticism that global warming is a real problem. I do not believe this skepticism will be a tenable position much longer; any casual visitor to NASA's Climate website, for example, can see the evidence for him- or herself.

I am concerned that you have been a leading denier of climate change. You have said you don't believe in global warming, and you have claimed climate science is part of some liberal agenda to "control everything." These statements are ridiculous, and as my Senator you are certainly not representing my very well-informed views. Global warming is not a matter of opinion, but a **fact** which has been exhaustively measured and documented. The root cause of the problem is carbon emissions from our burning of fossil fuels, and the only reliable solution is for us to transition our energy infrastructure to more sustainable methods of energy production. Neither your ill-informed public statements nor your voting record to date have helped to accomplish this. In 2015, for example, you voted "Yes" on S.J.Res. 23 and 24, "Resolution of Disapproval," that sought to permanently block the EPA from setting any carbon pollution standards for existing and new power plants, respectively.

Since global warming is caused primarily by carbon pollution, we must implement some policy that creates a disincentive to emit carbon. One way would be to allow the EPA to seek to regulate carbon pollution just as it regulates other pollutants that harm the environment and human health, but you voted against that. Another way would be a carbon tax. While the specific methods can be debated, carbon emissions must somehow be made to have a *cost* that reflects their profound developing impact on the Earth and the well-being of future generations. As my Senator, I urge you to please become educated about Global Climate Change and support future policy proposals that are consistent with transitioning our energy infrastructure to a sustainable one. I, and especially my children and grandchildren, are counting on you.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Hester, Ph.D.

## References

1. J. Cook, *et al.*, Quantifying the consensus on anthropogenic global warming in the scientific literature; *Environmental Research Letters* **8** (2013), 024024.
2. J. L. Powell, Climate scientists virtually unanimous: anthropogenic global warming is true; *Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society* **35** (2015), 121-124.
3. J. Cook, *et al.*, Consensus on consensus: a synthesis of consensus estimates on human-caused global warming; *Environmental Research Letters* **11** (2016), 048002.