



[Majority Press Releases](#)

[Fact of the Day](#)

[Speeches](#)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2005

THE WEEKLY CLOSER

FROM THE SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
MAJORITY PRESS OFFICE

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 17

THE WEEK IN REVIEW...

- [“Comedy Of Errors”](#)
- [Winter Is Upon Us...
And So Are Concerns
About Natural Gas](#)
- [Inhofe Dismisses Claim
About CO2 Control
Costs](#)
- [Senator Inhofe
Comments On Bringing
Integrity Back To The
IPCC Process](#)
- [Opening Statement By
Senator Inhofe: Hearing
On Transportation
Fuels Of The Future](#)

IN THE NEWS...

- [Thin Green Line Is Bad
Science \(San Francisco
Chronicle, Debra J.
Saunders, November
17, 2005\)](#)

[San Francisco
Chronicle Podcast](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

- [Animal Rights Leader
Justifies Violence \(Los
Angeles Times, Steve
Hymon, November 13,
2005\)](#)

*The Weekly Closer Will Return After the Holiday Recess,
But Look for The Yearly Closer Next Month...*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK...

CBS's Ed Bradley: [The FBI's David] Strange says the FBI has identified the suspected bomber, Daniel Andreas San Diego, a 27-year-old animal rights activist from San Raphael, California, who is now a fugitive after he slipped an FBI surveillance team. But he left behind a message posted on Web sites sympathetic to the Animal Liberation Front; part of it reads, "We will now be doubling the size of every device we make."

Mr. John Lewis, Deputy Assistant Director for Counter-terrorism, FBI: "I'll ask you, why does someone build an improvised explosive device with shrapnel, nails and such, if they're not intending to cause someone grievous harm, if not worse?"

*"Burning Rage"
CBS' "60 Minutes"
November 13, 2005*

“COMEDY OF ERRORS”

According to Laurie David, who has been called a “Hollywood eco-crusader,” when it comes to environmental issues it’s not the size of your house that matters, it’s the size of your big green heart. As part of an awareness campaign, David recently worked with TBS to produce a global warning comedy show, “Earth to America,” highlighting the Hollywood Elites’ cooperative efforts with liberal special interest lawyers.

Now, numerous uncertainties remain regarding the science of climate change – as acknowledged by the National Academy of Sciences. The United States Senate, in a unanimous, bipartisan fashion, rejected the approach of the Kyoto Protocol nearly a decade ago because of the lack of credible science and the severe economic consequences of its provisions. Amazingly, the Hollywood Elites and their liberal lawyer friends, by way of the new “Earth to America” comedy show, continue to lobby the American public to support the costly Kyoto approach. Yet despite being a true believer in global warming herself, Laurie David, like so many others in their crusade, refuse to make the sacrifices in their own personal lives:

- “Sure, I have a big house, but I use it to gather hundreds of people for eco-salons. That’s not to justify the size of it, but it does create opportunities to spread knowledge and raise money for the greater environmental good. Sure, I could always cut down on clothes and dry-cleaning, but the point is not necessarily what more you could do - - we could all do more -- the point is that we do our part. And even with the house and clothes, I think I can do, and am doing, my part.”
- “My philosophy about this stuff is, it’s not all or nothing. A lot of people have that attitude: So you drive a fuel-efficient car, what about your giant house? What about this, what about that? I just got asked that on *Paula Zahn* and I was like, I’m not looking for perfection in any of this. We’re an imperfect people. But I really feel strongly that if everyone did one thing, we would be well on our way to a better planet. And I try to do more than one thing in my personal life.”

Well, Earth to *Hollywood* – those living with large houses and hybrid cars **would not be the ones facing the harsh economic realities** of the efforts to cap carbon dioxide emissions as required by Kyoto and other similar approaches. Wharton Econometrics Forecasting Associates estimates that the costs of implementing Kyoto would cost an American family of four \$2,700 annually. The reality is however, that events like this serve really only one purpose: to raise big money for special interest groups – the big business of Old Environmentalism. *USA Today* reports in an article today, “Smaller previous versions of the event, which weren’t televised, raised funds for the NRDC.” It would seem therefore, that Laurie David, a trustee of the NRDC, is just doing her small part to help liberal special interests.

Eco-salons?

[Return to the top](#) 

WINTER IS UPON US... AND SO ARE CONCERNS ABOUT NATURAL GAS

“Electricity officials are bracing for unprecedented rolling blackouts if New England faces a severe cold snap that overtaxes supplies of natural gas used for both heating homes and generating power.” So began the *Boston Globe’s* article Wednesday, “Winter may bring rolling blackouts.”

There are solutions to the supply crunch that colder regions like New England will feel this winter, yet they are continually frustrated by partisan political posturing. Case in point – S. 1772, the Gas PRICE Act.

S. 1772, besides offering prioritized assistance to communities to encourage the siting of new refineries in order to expand the nation’s refining capacity, includes a provision that will help reduce the waste of natural gas supplies and improve efficiency. The legislation establishes a grant program through **EPA’s Natural Gas Star** program to identify and use methane emission reduction technologies, and also requires the EPA Administrator to conduct a series of workshops to provide information to officials in the oil and gas producing

states through the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission. Natural Gas Star is a successful voluntary program, supported by most if not all of the oil and gas industry, which seeks to promote the best management to reduce wasteful emissions – the more gas that stays in the pipes, the more gas that will go to consumers and businesses.

S. 1772 also expands the concept of a “refinery” to include coal-to-liquid (CTL) and biofuel facilities.

Command-and-control approaches for energy prices failed Jimmy Carter. Shouldn't the nation be looking to the future instead playing a re-run of “That 70's Show?”

[Return to the top](#)

INHOFE DISMISSES CLAIM ABOUT CO2 CONTROL COSTS

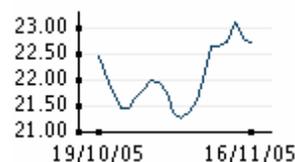
\$1 Assumption is Unrealistic, Current Trading Prices Demonstrate the Realities

Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), Chairman of the Environment & Public Works Committee, yesterday dismissed a claim made by the ranking member of the Clean Air, Climate Change and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee on the Senate floor with regard to multi-emissions legislation pending in Congress.

“I understand my friend from Delaware still holds to the belief that carbon dioxide emissions can be controlled for \$1 a ton,” Senator Inhofe said. “When the EPA recently released its new modeling data on clean air legislation, I noted that the modeling made unrealistic assumptions about the future costs of natural gas. My colleague’s assumptions for the costs of controlling CO2 emissions are also unrealistic as yesterday, the trading price for CO2 in Europe closed at €22.70 (Euros) per ton, which at the current rate of exchange is about \$26.62. That is over 26 times more than the estimate the junior Senator from Delaware touted today in favor of capping CO2 emissions with his legislation. In fact, EPA analysis shows that utilities would not reduce even a single ton of CO2 emissions under his bill.

“If Congress is serious about further improving air quality in this country, we simply must set aside the debate over controlling CO2 emissions and start talking again about cutting real pollution from power plants – mercury, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. Our Clear Skies legislation will accomplish that.”

EU Price Over the Last 30 Days



(source: PointCarbon.com)

[Return to the top](#)

SENATOR INHOFE COMMENTS ON BRINGING INTEGRITY BACK TO THE IPCC PROCESS

November 16, 2005

[Excerpt]

I am committed to shining a light on their activities. Global warming alarmists will undoubtedly continue to accuse me of attacking the science of global warming – that is part of their game. But nothing could be further from the truth. I support and defend credible, objective science by exposing the corrupting influences that would subvert it for political purposes. Good policy must be based on good science, and that requires science be free of bias, whatever its conclusions.

As nations meet again next month in Montreal to discuss global warming, the pronouncements of the IPCC leaders will gain renewed attention as they continue their efforts to craft a fourth assessment of the state of global warming science. If the fourth assessment is to have *any* credibility, fundamental changes will need to be made. ...

To regain its credibility, the IPCC must correct its deficiencies in all of the following areas before it releases its fourth assessment report.

Structurally, the IPCC must:

- Adopt procedures by which scientific reviewers formally approve both the Chapters and the Summary Report for Policymakers. Government delegates should not be part of the approval process.
- Limit the authority of lead authors and the Chair to introduce changes after approval by the reviewers.
- Create an ombudsman for each Chapter. These ombudsmen should consult with reviewers who believe valid issues are not being addressed, and disseminate a report for reviewers prior to final approval which is made part of the final document.
- Institute procedures to ensure that an adequate cross-section of qualified scientists wishing to participate in the process is selected based on unbiased criteria. The ombudsmen should review complaints of bias in the selection process.

There are many specific issues that the IPCC must address as well. For instance, the IPCC must:

- Ensure that uncertainties in the state of knowledge are clearly expressed in the Summary for Policymakers.
- Provide highly defensible ranges of the costs of controlling greenhouse gas emissions.
- Defensibly assess the effects of land-use changes in causing observed temperature increases.

- Provide highly defensible ranges of the benefits of global warming.
- Examine the costs and benefits of an adaptation strategy versus a mitigation strategy.
- Adequately examine studies finding a cooling trend of the Continental Antarctic for the last 40 years, as well as increases in the Antarctic ice mass.
- Adequately explain why the models predict greater warming than has been observed, avoiding use of selective data sets.
- Ensure an unbiased assessment of the literature on hurricanes.
- Ensure adequate review of malaria predictions by a range of specialists in the field, ensuring all views are expressed.

There are dozens more issues, most of which are as important as the ones I've just raised. Instead of listing them all here, I intend to post on my Committee's website this winter a more exhaustive and detailed list of issues that must be addressed in the fourth assessment.

In concluding, I'd quote from an article in *Der Spiegel* by Dr. von Storch and Dr. Nico Stehr, who is with Zeppelin University. They wrote:

Other scientists are succumbing to a form of fanaticism almost reminiscent of the McCarthy era... Silencing dissent and uncertainty for the benefit of a politically worthy cause reduces credibility, because the public is more well-informed than generally assumed. In the long term, the supposedly useful dramatizations achieve exactly the opposite of what they are intended to achieve. If this happens, both science and society will have missed an opportunity.

It is my solemn hope that the IPCC will listen the words of Drs. von Storch and Stehr and not miss the opportunity to re-establish its credibility. Only then will its work product be useful to policymakers. If the IPCC remains committed to its current path, however, then Lord Lawson's solution is the only viable one – the IPCC should be disbanded.

Click [here](#) for the full text of Senator Inhofe's floor speech.

[Return to the top](#) 

OPENING STATEMENT BY SENATOR INHOFE: HEARING ON TRANSPORTATION FUELS OF THE FUTURE

November 16, 2005

... With higher prices at the pump, and a greater reliance on foreign sources of oil, it is important for members of Congress to know what else is out there. This is not a new concept – the U.S. has sought to develop alternative approaches in the past, and should continue to do so.

In a 1979 nationally televised speech, Former President Carter claimed that

“the nation was facing a crisis that was the moral equivalent of war,” and instituted a number of market control programs that sent the economy into a tailspin. Twenty-five years later, we have hopefully learned something from those mistakes.

Historically, the American people have chosen oil over other options for two important reasons. First, oil can be refined to meet the environmental requirements and automotive performance the public demands. Second, oil is the most affordable option. That said, the President and Congress have worked together to develop alternatives to supplement oil.

Most recently, the Energy Bill established a renewable fuels standard. Currently, the EPA and affected industries are working toward implementation, and this Committee will ensure that happens. Also, this Committee included in the energy bill a new cellulosic ethanol loan guarantee program that could diversify biofuels use even more.

Unfortunately, too many of my colleagues today would rather gloss over or even ignore the facts, and instead choose to make sensational populist statements that suggest similar economy-shrinking and price-increasing policies that helped to sink the country in the late 1970s.

The fact is that oil can be explored for and produced in environmentally responsible ways, and refined into clean fuels. It can be done relatively cheaply.

Although some members may think it politically beneficial or even fun to criticize and deride oil companies, I think it is incredibly short-sighted and exhibits a certain amount of arrogance on the part of Congress. Americans demand and deserve solutions and results, not bluster and hot air.

My colleagues should think beyond the major national corporations. Small, independent oil and gas producers have played, and continue to play, a critical role in meeting our domestic needs. In fact, independents produce 68 percent of the nation’s oil. The independent producer is oftentimes a small businessman – more like a family farmer than ADM.

And like agriculture, oil is the foundation on which several states were built, and has provided jobs for generations of people. Perhaps, this is most evident in my own state where some believe that oil made Oklahoma.

I am excited to learn about developing syn-fuels technologies like Syntroleum’s coal-to-liquids demonstration plant. Some years ago, I looked at the national security benefits of deriving diesel and jet fuel from domestic coal and initiated a program at the Department of Defense. As long as it is price competitive, coal-to-liquids is something that we should be encouraging and doing.

In my recent Chairman’s mark of the Gas PRICE Act, I broadened our concept of refining to include coal-to-liquids and renewable fuels. I put forward a plan that does not change environmental laws, one that is well-supported by a number of state and local groups.

It is a shame that partisan rhetoric frustrated the advance of this reasonable

and responsible legislation. I am hopeful that my friends will consider pro-economy, pro-jobs policy rather than a frightening return to the Carter-era approach that failed then, and will fail now.

[Return to the top](#) 

IN THE NEWS...

San Francisco Chronicle

Thin green line is bad science

Debra J. Saunders

Thursday, November 17, 2005

(*San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Debra J. Saunders [comments](#) on “global warming or groupthink.” [podcast audio .mp3 file])

There is a myth in the American media. It goes like this: The good scientists agree that global warming is human induced and would be addressed if America ratified the Kyoto global warming pact, while bad heretical scientists question climate models that predict Armageddon because they are venal and corrupted by oil money.

A Tuesday Open Forum piece in *The Chronicle*, written by a UC Berkeley journalism professor and a UC Berkeley energy professor, provided a perfect example of this odd view that all scientists ascribe to a common gospel: “The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a U.N.-sponsored group of more than 2,000 scientists from more than 100 countries, has concluded that human activity is a key factor in elevated carbon-dioxide levels and rising temperatures and sea levels that could prove catastrophic for tens of millions of people living along Earth’s coastlines.” The piece also cited research by “Naomi Oreskes, a science historian at UC San Diego, who reviewed 928 abstracts of peer-reviewed articles on climate change published in scientific journals between 1993 and 2003 and could not find a single one that challenged the scientific consensus that human-caused global warming is real.”

The authors then attacked best-selling author Michael Crichton because Crichton accepted an invitation to testify from Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., “who is heavily supported by oil and gas interests” and who -- horrors -- dared to ask whether the global-warming scare is a hoax. That is the sort of McCarthyist guilt-by-association that one would not expect to encounter in the name of science.

Crichton spoke at an Independent Institute event Tuesday night with three apostate scientists.

It’s odd that Oreskes couldn’t find a single article that didn’t follow the thin green line on global warming. Panelist and Colorado State University professor of atmospheric science William M. Gray, a hurricane authority, announced that

he thinks that the biggest contributor to global warming is the fact that “we’re coming out of a little ice age,” and that the warming trend will end in six to eight years. ...

On Tuesday, Inhofe issued a statement from Capitol Hill that noted how scientists with independent views don’t get on too well with the IPCC. Witness Chris Landsea of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who resigned from the IPCC this year because he believed an IPCC top hurricane scientist wrongly linked severe hurricanes to global warming; as a result, he wrote, “the IPCC process has been subverted and compromised, its neutrality lost.”

Click [here](#) for the full text of the column.

Click [here](#) for Debra J. Saunders’ podcast.

[Return to the top](#) 

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Los Angeles Times

Animal Rights Leader Justifies Violence

In a “60 Minutes” interview, the L.A. area activist says those who harm “innocent beings” should be stopped by any “means necessary.”

By Steve Hymon

November 13, 2005

One of the leading animal rights activists in the Los Angeles area has taken his campaign to the national stage in recent weeks, saying that it may be “morally justifiable” to kill people to stop medical research on animals.

In recent U.S. Senate testimony and in a “60 Minutes” interview that will air tonight on CBS-TV Channel 2, Dr. Jerry Vlasak, a trauma surgeon, said he believes that researchers, slaughterhouse workers and others who kill animals “should be stopped using whatever means necessary.”

Vlasak is a board member of Animal Defense League, which has held raucous protests in the last few years outside the homes of city animal services employees and the residences of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and former Mayor James K. Hahn.

The group has demanded that the city stop euthanizing animals at the city’s six shelters — nearly 25,000 dogs were killed in the last fiscal year — and that Villaraigosa live up to his campaign promise to fire Guerdon Stuckey, the general manager who oversees the animal services department.

The “60 Minutes” segment focuses on the role of activists, including Vlasak, in

fighting medical research on animals. The segment is not about the situation in Los Angeles.

According to a transcript provided by CBS, when reporter Ed Bradley suggests that Vlasak is advocating murder, Vlasak replies: "I think people who torture innocent beings should be stopped. If they won't stop when you ask them nicely, they don't stop when you demonstrate to them what they're doing is wrong, then they should be stopped using whatever means necessary."

Vlasak also tells Bradley that he would not resort to violence.

"My role in the movement is not to go out and do that," he says, "but to explain to the mainstream media and to the public in general why these people are doing what they're doing."

Last month, at a Senate committee hearing on medical research on animals, Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) asked Vlasak to clarify if "whatever means necessary" included murder.

"That would be a morally justifiable solution to the problem," Vlasak responded.

He has made similar remarks in the past. Last year, Vlasak was banned from Britain because officials there said he was endorsing violence.

In an interview with *The Times*, Vlasak, 47, said he is on the staff of several hospitals, but declined to name them. ...

Informed of Vlasak's comments on "60 Minutes," Stuckey, the city's animal services chief, said he feared that activists might harm one of his employees.

"It's no different than Osama bin Laden," Stuckey said. "He doesn't strap a bomb to his chest and kill people on the bus, but he's the catalyst that encourages others to do that."

Stuckey also said that neither Vlasak nor the defense league is doing anything to cure animal overpopulation, provide spay and neuter services or combat illegal breeding.

The mayor's office declined to comment on Vlasak's remarks.

In late October, Villaraigosa met with Vlasak, Ferdin and another league member in his City Hall offices. In a contentious 45-minute session, the mayor criticized the protests and refused to fire Stuckey as long as activists continued to demonstrate near the homes of city employees. Eight days later, the group protested outside the mayor's Mount Washington residence.

The league mailed graphic videos of dogs being killed at shelters to the homes of City Council members. That week, the council decided to lend surveillance equipment to city employees threatened by animal activists.

While the Animal Defense League harasses city officials, another group known

as the Animal Liberation Front has claimed responsibility for several acts of vandalism at the home of shelter employees. The front also has claimed responsibility for arsons across the United States and is listed as a terrorist organization by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Most recently, the group took responsibility for throwing smoke grenades into the hallway of the Bunker Hill apartment building where Stuckey lives. . . .

Click [here](#) for the full text of the article.

Click [here](#) to view CBS' video teaser.

Bill Holbrook, Communications Director
Matt Dempsey, Deputy Press Secretary