



THE WEEKLY CLOSER

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK...

“Canada’s new environment minister says she won’t support trading emissions credits with other nations or any other international deal that does not have a ‘direct environmental benefit to Canadians.’ Rona Ambrose said she does not see the trading of emissions credits with other countries as being a high priority in her mandate of ‘cleaning up the air Canadians breathe.’ ‘On Kyoto, I will say that our government will not be shipping hot air credits overseas. Our focus is on a domestic solution,’ Ambrose told reporters Wednesday following a one-hour meeting with Alberta Environment Minister Guy Boutilier.”

Jim Macdonald
“[Canada’s new environment minister says no to trading emissions credits](#)”
The Canadian Press
February 15, 2006

INHOFE VOICES DISPLEASURE WITH PROPOSED EPA BUDGET CUTS AT HEARING

Calls On EPA To Find Cuts That Will Withstand Congressional Process

On Wednesday, Chairman Inhofe voiced his displeasure with the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) proposed budget cuts for FY2007. Previously, Chairman Inhofe called on Administrator Johnson for a realistic budget during Administrator Johnson’s confirmation hearing and in a letter sent to the EPA last month. The letter calls for cuts to the budget that would withstand the Congressional process. The EPA proposed 2007 budget, however, failed to take into consideration these suggestions. In his opening statement, Chairman Inhofe addressed his concerns to Administrator Johnson:

“The Administration has proposed \$7.32 billion for the EPA for fiscal year 2007. This is a \$310 million cut to the EPA’s budget from the 2006 enacted level. However, this budget includes \$199 million in cuts to the clean water SRF and more than \$200 million in cuts to regional water programs and other Congressional priorities. These cuts will not be sustained throughout the process. I truly understand that in the current fiscal environment we need to make tough choices. However, I am frustrated by the unrealistic cuts. There are many opportunities to make further cuts that could survive the process that were overlooked by the Administration.

“This is disappointing because in addition to my demands at last year’s hearing,

I sent a letter to you earlier this year urging you to propose cuts that stand a realistic chance of being implemented. A budget that focuses so much of the pain on regional programs and Congressional priorities does not meet this goal.”

Wednesday’s hearing provided another opportunity for the EPA to hear concerns from several Committee members regarding the proposed EPA budget cuts. Chairman Inhofe is continuing to work closely with Administrator Johnson and believes that these concerns will be resolved in a cooperative manner.

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IN THE NEWS...

The Canadian Press

Canada’s new environment minister says no to trading emissions credits

Jim Macdonald

February 15, 2006

EDMONTON (CP) - Canada’s new environment minister says she won’t support trading emissions credits with other nations or any other international deal that does not have a “direct environmental benefit to Canadians.”

Rona Ambrose said she does not see the trading of emissions credits with other countries as being a high priority in her mandate of “cleaning up the air Canadians breathe.”

“On Kyoto, I will say that our government will not be shipping hot air credits overseas. Our focus is on a domestic solution,” Ambrose told reporters Wednesday following a one-hour meeting with Alberta Environment Minister Guy Boutilier.

“We draw the line at ensuring that there’s a direct benefit to any of the legislative mechanisms or any of the international agreements that we are presently engaged in and that we will become engaged in in the future.”

But Ambrose refused to discuss specifics of what will happen to the Kyoto accord or whether the Conservative government will scrap the deal to reduce Canada’s emissions.

Details of her position on Kyoto must first be discussed with other members of the new federal cabinet and the Conservative caucus, she said.

Ambrose would only say that clean air is the mandate she has been given by Prime Minister Stephen Harper and she will use any mechanism at her disposal to do that.

But she also said her government's opposition to the trading emissions credits should come as no surprise to Canadians.

"There's pretty wide consensus now from environmental groups and from industry that that's something that isn't an advantage to Canada and to the environment," she said. . . ."

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IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

The Orlando Sentinel

Muzzling scientists on climate change?

Roy Spencer

February 16, 2006

A nasty little spat has arisen as a result of NASA's leading climate scientist, Dr. James Hansen, director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), speaking out on the Bush administration's reluctance to begin imposing carbon-dioxide restrictions to help slow global warming.

The first salvo by Hansen was fired on Oct. 26, 2004, when, speaking to an audience at the University of Iowa, he said, "In my more than three decades in government, I have never seen anything approaching the degree to which information flow from scientists to the public has been screened and controlled as it is now," referring to pressure he apparently has experienced from the administration.

The issue has now surfaced again after a more recent lecture, and Hansen has said he will ignore NASA's restrictions on him. Those restrictions call for coordinating with NASA's public-affairs office, and getting management approval for any of his talks that touch on policy, as opposed to science.

I have some familiarity with these restrictions on government employees, as they were a major reason I resigned from NASA more than four years ago. But back then, the shoe was on the other foot. NASA knew I was not supportive of the popular gloom-and-doom theory of global warming, and before any congressional testimony of mine on the subject, I was "reminded" that I could speak on the science, but not on policy matters.

Well, it turns out that expert witnesses on this contentious subject are almost always asked by a senator or congressman, "What would you do about policy if you were me?" When the question came, I dutifully dodged it.

I am not sure, but disobeying my superiors would probably have been grounds

for dismissal, if they wanted to press the point. ...

If you are concerned about the administration possibly muting some of its employees' influence in this area -- remember, NASA is part of the executive branch -- don't despair. Our government heavily funds a marching army of climate scientists -- government, university and private -- whose funding depends upon manmade global warming remaining a threat. The government agencies, like NASA, that the money flows through also depend upon these issues remaining alive for continued funding.

This is not to suggest that there is a conspiracy going on. It's merely to point out that climate scientists aren't always unbiased keepers of truth. The arena of global warming overflows with more strongly held opinions than it does unbiased or scientific truths.

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Bill Holbrook, Communications Director
Matt Dempsey, Deputy Press Secretary