

255 members of the National Academy of Sciences defend climate science integrity

May 6 2010

Two hundred fifty-five members of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, including 11 Nobel Prize laureates, have joined together to defend the rigor and objectivity of climate science. Their statement, "Climate Change and the Integrity of Science," will be published in the journal *Science* on May 7, 2010 as the Lead Letter, along with a supporting editorial.

This statement, signed by 255 of the world's leading scientists, explains the scientific research process and confirms the fundamental conclusions about [climate change](#) based on the work of thousands of scientists worldwide. It specifically reaffirms the "compelling, comprehensive, and consistent objective evidence that humans are changing the climate in ways that threaten our societies and the [ecosystems](#) on which we depend," and highlights that there is nothing identified in recent events that has changed the fundamental conclusions about climate change.

The statement also condemns recent political attacks on climate scientists, many of which are driven by special interests or dogma and not an honest effort to provide an alternative theory that satisfies the evidence we see around us. The evidence shows that the planet is warming due to increased concentrations of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere, most of the increase in the concentration of these gases over the last century is due to human activities, and that warming the planet causes complex climate changes that affect people and the environment.

Scientists from 53 different disciplines, like environmental sciences and

ecology, chemistry, geology, geophysics, plant and microbial biology, and more, all members of the National Academy of Sciences but signing on as individuals, came together in agreement to reiterate an urgent call to action: "Society has two choices: we can ignore the science and hide our heads in the sand and hope we are lucky, or we can act in the public interest to reduce the threat of global climate change quickly and substantively."

Provided by Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security

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