On April 28, Pope Francis convened a “summit” on global warming and sustainability at the Vatican in Rome. Observing that only alarmists and advocates of population control were on the program, we decided to send some real scientists and other experts to Rome to provide a different opinion. Our presence generated global press coverage, much of it positive, but also some controversy.

Our delegation to Rome consisted of the following individuals, all of them willing to travel a great distance on short notice and participate without honoraria:

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
E. Calvin Beisner, Ph.D., national spokesman for the Cornwall Alliance for the Stewardship of Creation

Hal Doiron, former NASA Skylab and Space Shuttle engineer

Richard Keen, Ph.D., meteorology instructor at the University of Colorado

Christopher Monckton, chief policy advisor to the Science and Public Policy Institute (SPPI)

Marc Morano, executive editor and chief correspondent, ClimateDepot

Tom Sheahen, Ph.D., vice chairman of the board of directors of the Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP)

Elizabeth Yore, J.D., former general counsel at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Virginia

Jim Lakely and Keely Drukala, Heartland’s director and deputy director of communications, respectively, traveled to Rome as well and managed the complicated and last-minute logistics of the trip.

We created a webpage at https://www.heartland.org/Vatican-Environment-Workshop where we posted news releases and opinion-editorials expressing our concern that the pope was being misinformed and offering links to research and commentary focusing on the relationship between faith and the environment.

Following the event and safe return home of our delegation, we posted all the presentations and video from the event on the website.

Global Press Coverage
The Vatican and United Nations seemed to be shocked that anyone would criticize their bias or the lack of scientific credentials of their speakers. Their reaction to our presence helped us generate extensive world-wide attention, not all of it positive of course.


All of our writing and speaking relating to the pope and the Catholic Church was respectful and focused narrowly on the science, economics, and politics of climate change.

What We Achieved
Our presence in Rome enabled us to achieve quite a lot. For a surprisingly modest cost (about $32,000, not including staff time or overhead), we appeared in many stories in the mainstream media about the pope’s summit. Often, we were the only people quoted who disagreed with the message global warming alarmists had hoped would come out of the summit.

We circumvented the boycott on reporting the views of global warming skeptics that groups such as MediaMatters and DeSmogBlog try to impose on mainstream media. Many of the biggest media outlets in the world, including The New York Times, Washington Post, and NPR, covered us. Some even avoided the temptation to label us “deniers” or “Koch-funded.” Most, however, could not resist.

While reaching millions of people via mainstream and alternative print and email, we especially raised our profile among Catholics around the world. If we hadn’t been in Rome, it is unlikely Catholics would have seen or heard any criticism of the pope’s embrace of radical global warming alarmism.

We gave Catholics a reason to care about the global warming debate by warning them the pope was being misinformed.

Other groups noticed our efforts and amplified our message, producing hundreds of posts on blogs and other websites and thousands of comments on news stories and social media “chatter.” We got the attention of Cath-
olics for certain, but also many other people of faith and those who write on religion and environmental topics.

During the summit, our presence was discussed at length by one of the lead speakers at the event. After the event, a high-ranking Vatican official denounced global warming “deniers” for criticizing the pope’s upcoming encyclical on global warming and sustainability and Jeffrey Sachs, a speaker at the summit, singled us out for criticism in a widely circulated essay (to which we replied).

What’s Next?
Since the summit, the Vatican has announced it may delay the release of its long-planned encyclical on global warming and sustainability and that the document may be down-graded to the equivalent of a “white paper.” It is impossible to know if our efforts were responsible for those decisions ... but it is unlikely they would be made were it not for the sizeable outcry and protest our presence generated.

Given the nature of the Vatican’s response to our presence, we believe Pope Francis was made aware of our presence and the scientific case we were making. Whether we influenced his opinion or changed his mind is unknowable, but getting his attention is the first step if this is ever to be achieved.

Our trip to Rome alerted us to the existence of millions of Catholics who are worried their pope is being misled regarding the science and economics of climate change. We made many new friends in the Catholic community and are adding thousands of new contacts to our email and mailing lists.

We will continue to follow Pope Francis’s public statements about climate change and provide a reasoned and compassionate response when appropriate. However, The Heartland Institute makes an affirmative effort to avoid addressing social issues or engaging in debates over religious doctrines, so there is a clear limit to the extent of our involvement.

If you are a person of faith – Catholic or otherwise – and interested in the climate change debate, or know someone who is, please visit https://www.heartland.org/Vatican-Environment-Workshop and watch the videos and read some of the commentaries there, and urge your friends to do the same. Then talk about this topic with your friends and neighbors, fellow church members, and priest or minister.

Share the good news with them: Global warming is not a crisis!

Joseph L. Bast is president and CEO of The Heartland Institute

IDEAS THAT EMPOWER PEOPLE

The Heartland Institute is an independent source of research and commentary founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1984. It is not affiliated with any political party, business, or foundation. Its activities are tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Heartland’s mission is to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems. Such solutions include parental choice in education, market-based approaches to environmental protection and health care finance, tax and spending limitation, and deregulation in areas where property rights and markets do a better job than government bureaucracies.

For more information, call 312/377-4000 or visit our Web site at www.heartland.org.

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HEARTLAND.ORG
## Executive Summary

### By the Numbers

During the first quarter of 2015, The Heartland Institute ...

- Contacted elected officials 259,935 times, including 4,891 one-on-one contacts by phone, email, or in person.
- Generated at least 190 broadcast and print media hits reaching 22.9 million subscribers and 594 online hits.
- Published print and digital issues of four public policy newspapers: *Budget & Tax News*, *Environment & Climate News*, *Health Care News*, and *School Reform News*.
- Prepared for the release of Senior Fellow Peter Ferrara’s new book, *Power to the People*.
- Contacted elected officials, allies, and business leaders in nearly two dozen states to discuss Heartland’s pro-energy, pro-jobs agenda.
- Came to the defense of embattled astrophysicist Dr. Willie Soon and other climate scientists unfairly targeted by environmental organizations, the media, and national elected officials.
- Added 62 interviews to podcasts, attracting 331,189 listeners.
- Sponsored or cosponsored three events and spoke at 22 events reaching more than 2,134 people.

### Center on Climate and Environmental Policy

- Published three issues of *Environment & Climate News*, 13 issues of *Climate Change Weekly*, and five issues of the newly launched *Weather Bulletin*.
- Produced six *Research & Commentaries* and two *Policy Briefs* on environment topics.
- Established a comprehensive webpage highlighting astrophysicist Dr. Willie Soon’s scientific accomplishments and responded to attacks on his integrity and that of other climate scientists from Greenpeace, the *Boston Globe*, *The New York Times*, U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), and U.S. Sens. Edward Markey (D-MA), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI).
- Logged 2,031 personal and 92,886 group contacts with elected officials, for a total of 94,917 contacts with legislators on energy and environment issues.
- Generated at least 16 broadcast and 42 print media hits reaching more than 13.3 million subscribers and 323 online hits.
- Addressed 19 events with audiences totaling at least 1,789 people.
- Produced 25 podcasts attracting 87,573 listeners.

### Center on Budgets and Taxes

- Published three issues of *Budget & Tax News*, printing 13,121 copies and mailing 12,349 copies of each issue.
Sent Senior Fellow Peter Ferrara’s new book, *Power to the People*, to book reviewers, conservative columnists, and conservative talk and television show hosts.

Logged 1,438 personal and 61,376 group contacts for a total of 62,814 contacts with legislators on budget and tax issues.

Generated at least 20 broadcast, 89 online, and 26 print media hits reaching more than 2.2 million people.

Spoke at three events with some 345 people in attendance.

Produced 14 new podcasts on budget and tax issues, attracting 50,751 listeners.

**Center for Transforming Education**

Published three issues of *School Reform News* and 12 issues of *School Choice Weekly*.

Produced five *Research & Commentaries* addressing Common Core, higher education subsidies in Wisconsin, higher education in Minnesota, and more.

Logged 699 personal and 43,711 group contacts with legislators, for a total of 44,410 contacts with elected officials on education issues.

Sponsored or cosponsored two events on Common Core and one marking National School Choice Week.

Generated at least 17 broadcast, 46 online, and 12 print media hits reaching 845,241 print publication subscribers.

Produced nine new podcasts on school reform, attracting 34,544 listeners.

**Consumers for Health Care Choices**

Published two issues of *Health Care News*. Long-time contributing editor Kenneth Artz is taking over as managing editor from Sean Parnell.

Published seven weekly editions of *Consumer Power Report* and sent them to approximately 4,000 people.

Published eight *Research & Commentaries*.

Logged 675 personal and 46,400 group contacts with elected officials for a total of 47,075 contacts with legislators on health care issues.

Generated at least four broadcast, 41 online, and eight print media hits reaching nearly 1.5 million people.

Produced 10 new podcasts on health care attracting 28,547 listeners.
Parents, teachers, and policymakers across the country are fighting back against the increased federal intrusion into education represented by Common Core State Standards, testing, and student data collection. The Heartland Institute played a major role by providing information to thousands of parents and legislators, reporting on the controversy in our publications and on our websites, and getting extensive press coverage for our opposition.

In January, the American Thinker published an op-ed by Research Fellow Heather Kays, who wrote, “[E]ducation and curriculum are supposed to be handled on the state and local levels because they are not enumerated as federal powers in the Constitution.” The Nevada Journal also published an article citing Kays.

Kays discussed Common Core on The Stephanie Trussel Show on WLS-AM in Chicago, The Steve Gruber Show on WJIM-AM (Lansing, Michigan), and The Take with Charles Butler (online radio).

In February, we sent new Research & Commentaries on Common Core to elected officials in Arizona, Montana, and West Virginia. In mid-February, Heartland’s education experts met with several Arizona lawmakers to discuss repealing and replacing Common Core, and Kays testified at an Arizona House Education Committee hearing on a bill aimed at doing so. The bill passed the committee 5–2. The Arizona Daily Star (Tucson; circ. 84,826), Tucson.com, and Arizona Capital Times quoted Kays after her testimony. Soñoran News (Phoenix, Arizona; circ. 44,000) published an op-ed by Kays titled “A plea to Arizona legislators regarding Common Core.”

The Hill (circ. 20,944) published an op-ed by Kays on March 5. She wrote, “Common Core is not what its proponents promised, and lawmakers should not compound their mistake by carrying on with these bad standards.

On March 8, Heartland hosted an event at the Palatine (Illinois) Public Library featuring a screening of the anti-Common-Core documentary Building the Machine. About 65 people attended.

Also in March, the Chicago Tribune (circ. 436,731) and Daily North Shore published articles covering a Common Core debate in which Senior Fellow Bruno Behrend participated. Behrend expressed “grave concerns about Common Core, PARCC and the fact that the federal government and private consortia had developed these standards ‘in an opaque fashion’ without meaningful input from relevant stakeholders.”

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**Performance Highlights**

- Published three issues of School Reform News, printing and mailing approximately 12,500 copies of each issue.
- Sent 12 issues of School Choice Weekly, a weekly e-newsletter written by Joy Pullmann, to approximately 1,000 people.
- Released five Research & Commentaries addressing Common Core standards and higher education.
- Logged 699 personal and 43,711 group contacts with elected officials, for a total of 44,410 contacts on education issues.
- Generated at least 17 broadcast, 46 online, and 12 print media hits reaching 845,241 print publication subscribers.
- Added nine interviews to the education podcast, attracting 34,544 listeners.
Promoting the Parent Trigger
The public has shown renewed interest in Parent Trigger laws, under which parents may circulate petitions calling for their local schools to be reformed. If a majority of parents sign a valid petition, school district officials must do what the parents ask. Heartland has been active in promoting the concept since 2010, when it published a Policy Study titled “The Parent Trigger: A Model for Transforming Education.”

Watchdog.org published an op-ed by Kays, and she discussed the status of the Parent Trigger in Tennessee on the Paul Molloy Show (Florida).

Rewards Improve Education Outcomes
In February, Breitbart published an op-ed by Heartland Institute Editor Justin Haskins citing Rewards: How to use rewards to help children learn—and why teachers don’t use them well, a book Heartland formally released in October 2014.

Several excerpts from Rewards have run in School Reform News, and Heartland Science Director Jay Lehr reviewed the book in March. He wrote, “Walberg and Bast have done meticulous research, which includes 384 footnote sources of information to prove giving rewards to students can enhance their educational experience and increase their chances of success.”

Haskins has been growing the @JosephLBast Twitter account specifically for education-related content, from 36 followers in June 2014 to 3,008 in March 2015. He has posted 606 tweets promoting Rewards or education-related issues.

Protecting Student Privacy
Heartland provided valuable information to parents and activists working to convince legislators to create meaningful laws to address student data privacy concerns arising especially from Common Core standards and testing.

Kays was a guest on the first episode of the Watchdog.org free speech podcast, “Say It Loud, Say It Proud,” on March 4 to discuss whether school officials should be allowed to ask for students’ social media passwords. Later in March, she guested twice on the Paul Molloy Show in Florida to discuss free speech and a student privacy bill sponsored in Congress by Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) and Rep. Luke Messer (R-IN). In a March Heartlander article, she explained why some grassroots activists are concerned the Polis/Messer legislation is not strong enough.

The February issue of School Reform News reported parents in Pennsylvania have petitioned the governor to halt data-collection practices until questions are resolved about student information collected through Common Core tests.

Expanding Choice

On March 26, Senior Fellow Jeff Judson testified before the Texas Senate Education Committee about the state’s taxpayer savings grants proposal. A Heartland ally reported, “We had a really great hearing. Heartland and all the other groups who participated are entitled to be proud!”

Kays discussed vouchers, homeschooling, tax credit scholarships, and school choice during several interviews on The Paul Molloy Show, where she has a segment every Friday.

“The federal government and private consortia developed [Common Core standards] ‘in an opaque fashion’ without meaningful input from relevant stakeholders.”
The first quarter of 2015 brought several pivotal events in health care policy, including several victories and what could prove to be the end of Obamacare.

In March, the U.S. Supreme Court heard King v. Burwell, a case challenging the Obama administration’s plan to distribute tax credits through federally established health insurance exchanges despite the clear language of the law limiting subsidies to state-established exchanges. A ruling in favor of the plaintiffs would mean federal tax credits will not be available to people purchasing insurance through federally established exchanges, effectively eliminating Obamacare’s individual and employer mandates in 37 states that opted not to establish state exchanges.

At the end of 2014, Senior Fellow Peter Ferrara filed an amicus brief on behalf of Heartland in support of the plaintiffs, and he continued to support the lawsuit during the first quarter of 2015. In addition, Breitbart published an op-ed by Editor Justin Haskins titled “Could This Be the Case That Ends Obamacare?” and Senior Fellow Benjamin Domenech wrote in several issues of Consumer Power Report about the need for congressional Republicans to have a viable replacement ready to pass in the event of a ruling for the plaintiffs in King v. Burwell.

The Washington Times (circ. 31,838) published an op-ed by Research Fellow Sean Parnell, “About that Obamacare Death Spiral.” He noted the insurance “death spiral” about which several Justices raised concerns during oral arguments in King v. Burwell is probably already underway regardless of how the High Court rules. Parnell interviewed John Goodman of the Independence Institute for a podcast addressing what Congress should do to prepare for a victory in the case.

Obamacare isn’t just being illegally implemented, it is also bad policy, and Heartland worked through the quarter to explain why. Top-rated talk radio host Rush Limbaugh read from an op-ed by Haskins published in the New York Post, titled “Endlessly Slapped by Obamacare,” and Breitbart published an op-ed by Haskins titled “If Obamacare Is Saving the Impoverished, Why Are So Few Signing Up?” Human Events published an op-ed by Haskins titled “Obamacare Failing, Doctors Will Take Future Blame.”

Parnell appeared on The Howie Carr Show on WRKO-AM in Boston and Midday with Charlie Sykes on WTMJ (Milwaukee) to discuss King v. Burwell. World Magazine (circ. 115,000) published an article in January titled “GOP-controlled Congress sets its sights on Obamacare” quoting Parnell on the loss of hours experienced by workers as a result of Obamacare’s definition of full-time work. Policy Advisor Alan Caruba’s essay titled “Obamacare Must Go” proved immensely popular online, being reposted on at least 16 websites, including Canada Free Press, Tea Party Nation, and The Absurd Report.

Medical Reform

Heartland continued its leadership in opposing further expansion of Medicaid. Health Care News covered Medicaid expansion extensively, publishing nine stories in the first quarter on Medicaid’s high costs and poor accessibility. Medicaid expansion in Arkansas, California, Hawaii, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wyoming was covered.

We sent a Research & Commentary opposing expansion to state legislators in Alaska, noting, “Contrary to expansion supporters’ depiction of new federal funds as ‘free money,’ Medicaid expansion is expensive, creating new costs the federal government may not always cover, leaving state taxpayers on the hook for new liabilities.”

On February 5, The Leaflet, the govern-
Second quarter 2015

Consumers for Health Care Choices

ment relations department’s e-newsletter, was sent to 9,573 state and local elected officials and allies around the country. The lead article addressed Medicaid expansion, noting, “States should demand flexibility from the federal government so they are able to innovate their Medicaid systems, because without flexibility from the federal government, states will have little power to decrease costs and offer better care to Medicaid patients.”

Not a single state passed Medicaid expansion in the first quarter of 2015, with legislatures in Montana, Tennessee, Utah, and Wyoming rejecting their governors’ efforts to expand the program. The newly elected governor of Arkansas decided not to continue his predecessor’s expansion once it expires at the end of 2015.

Certificate of Need Repeal, Reform

Several states have introduced repeal or at least substantial reform of their Certificate of Need (CON) laws, which block new medical facilities from competing with incumbent providers. New Hampshire, North Carolina, and South Carolina all considered repeal or reform in the first quarter, while Indiana went in the opposite direction, considering implementing a moratorium on new nursing home construction.

Heartland was heavily involved in educating legislators on the anti-competitive and anti-patient effects of CON laws. On January 28 and March 9, Research Director Sam Karnick testified in Indiana in opposition to the proposed nursing home moratorium. He focused on three key points: The number of empty beds is a shortsighted and weak argument for imposing a moratorium; a ban will shield current businesses from competition, raising costs and lowering quality for consumers; and it is not the proper role of government to impose an arbitrary ban on nursing home construction.

Research & Commentaries documented the harm of CON laws were sent to state legislators in Florida, Indiana, Maine, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.

Heartland’s health policy experts also appeared in print and online warning of the dangers of CON laws. The Times of Northwest Indiana (circ. 86,487) published an op-ed by Par nell titled “Market, Not Politics, Should Decide Indiana’s Nursing Home Choices.” He wrote, “The evidence against CON laws is clear. Duke University professors Chris Conover and Frank Sloan examined the issue carefully in their 2003 study of CON in Michigan and concluded, “[T]here is little evidence that CON results in a reduction in costs and some evidence to suggest the opposite.”

Performance Highlights

- Published two issues of Health Care News. Managing Editor Sean Parnell is leaving for another opportunity, and long-time contributing editor Kenneth Artz is taking over as managing editor.
- Published seven weekly editions of Consumer Power Report and sent them to approximately 4,000 people.
- Sent Senior Fellow Peter Ferrara’s new book, Power to the People, to book reviewers, conservative columnists, and conservative talk and television show hosts in early April; the book went to the printer in late April.
- Published eight Research & Commentaries.
- Logged 675 personal and 46,400 group contacts with elected officials for a total of 47,075 contacts with legislators on health care issues.
- Generated at least four broadcast, 41 online, and eight print media hits reaching nearly 1.5 million people.
- Produced 10 new podcasts on health care attracting 28,547 listeners.
In March, The Heartland Institute released the 2015 Welfare Reform Report Card, the result of two years of research and writing by Heartland staff and Policy Advisor Gary MacDougal. The report measures and ranks states according to five measures of their reform efforts (inputs) and five performance outcomes.

South Dakota ranked first in this year’s report, followed by Idaho, Nevada, Utah, and Wisconsin. Missouri ranked last (as it did in 2008). Alabama, Georgia, Massachusetts, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Vermont also received grades of F.


Welfare reform is an important topic for a number of reasons. A federal welfare reform law in 1996 allows individual states to experiment with how they offer aid to families with dependent children, creating a wide range of initiatives and outcomes. Effective reforms have been demonstrated to help welfare recipients quickly regain financial independence.

We printed and mailed nearly 9,000 copies of the Report Card and/or its executive summary. An additional 13,000 copies of the executive summary were mailed with the June issue of Budget & Tax News. The Report Card is available online at https://www.heartland.org/welfare-reform.

Tax and Spending Reform
Heartland provides elected officials and the public with a steady stream of information on entitlement and tax reform issues. Over several days in January, Senior Fellow Peter Ferrara met with congressional committee staff to discuss tax reform, entitlement reform, and his upcoming book, Power to the People.

In January, Human Events published an op-ed by Research Fellow Jesse Hathaway recommending implementation of tax and expenditure limits, “fiscal mechanisms designed to provide hard limits against the growth of government spending and tax collections.” American Thinker published an op-ed by Editor Justin Haskins recommending Social Security reform.
The New Hampshire Supreme Court upheld legislative pension reforms enacted last year, ruling state employees’ pension plans are not immune to changes, upholding legislative reforms that altered the definitions of “earned compensation” and cost-of-living adjustments. In another positive development, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan proposed a budget including sweeping spending cuts and a freeze on state education spending at current levels.

Of course, not all states are moving in the right direction. In March we sent 136 Alabama lawmakers a Research & Commentary addressing Gov. Robert Bentley’s tax hike proposal. The commentary noted, “Sin taxes and tourism taxes distort markets, reduce economic competitiveness, and encourage unsustainable increases in government spending. ... Instead of creating and increasing discriminatory taxes, states should focus on tax reform that lowers rates, puts dollars back into the pockets of taxpayers, and [creates] reasonable limits on spending.”

E-Cigarettes and Tobacco

Heartland continues to promote the harm reduction potential of e-cigarettes and oppose excessive taxes and regulation of tobacco and tobacco-replacement products. A March Budget & Tax News story about proposed taxes and regulations on e-cigarette fluid in Indiana included an interview with Phillip DeCicca, whose study on excise tax avoidance was published by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Hathaway interviewed Kerri Howell, a Folsom, California city councilwoman, for a March Budget & Tax News article about her city’s proposed smoking ban extension. Howell said, “Government is on the brink of intruding a bit too far into personal choices in areas that are otherwise legal activities.”

On February 17, we sent North Dakota elected officials a Research & Commentary discussing a proposed e-cigarette tax increase. The next day, the legislature rejected a pair of bills aimed at increasing tobacco excise taxes in the state. The state Senate voted 30–17 to reject a bill raising the excise tax to $2.00 per pack, from its current $0.44. In the House, 56 Representatives voted against increasing the tax to $1.54 a pack.

We sent Kansas lawmakers a Research & Commentary discussing a proposed alcohol and tobacco tax increase. The commentary notes, “According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 35.8 percent of Kansas adults who earn less than $15,000 per year are smokers, whereas only 12.6 percent of adults who earn $50,000 or more smoke. This makes increasing tobacco taxes highly regressive and a burden on those who can least afford to pay.”

Defending Private Property Rights

Civil liberties issues rose to new prominence in the first quarter of the year, and Heartland weighed in with strong support of individual rights. Hathaway interviewed a Colorado state senator for a March Budget & Tax News story about a civil asset seizure reform bill. The senator explained her proposal: “In my bill, there would have to be a conviction before a forfeiture action can be instituted, in every case. Parties who have had items seized would have the right to a preliminary hearing, or writ of replevin, to determine the validity of the seizure or require the return of the property.”

On February 10, Hathaway joined Brian Thomas on WKRC-AM (Cincinnati, Ohio) to discuss a new Institute for Justice report on IRS abuse of civil asset forfeiture laws. The agency’s “seize first, ask questions later” behavior, Hathaway said, violates due process and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.

A March Budget & Tax News story quoted Wyoming state Sen. Leland Christensen (R-Alta) on Gov. Matt Mead’s opposition to civil asset forfeiture reform in the state. Christensen said, “I think any time the government takes citizens’ property, there ought to be a pretty high standard. ... That is very different than saying, ‘We believe you came by this money inappropriately, so we’re just going to keep it.’”
Standing Up to Climate Bullies

H. Sterling Burnett, Ph.D.
Research Fellow
Managing Editor
Environment & Climate News

In January, Science Bulletin published “Why Models Run Hot: Results from an Irreducibly Simple Climate Model,” by Heartland policy advisors Lord Christopher Monckton, Willie Soon, David Legates, and William Briggs. It became the most downloaded article in the journal’s history and received positive coverage in major papers and online journals, including the Daily Mail and Physics.org.

The positive response proved too much for climate alarmists to bear, and they began a concerted assault on the reputations of the study’s authors.

A January 26 Boston Globe article claimed Soon had failed to disclose conflicts of interest and implied his work was influenced by fossil fuel funding. Though many of the Globe’s claims were more than a decade old and already had been refuted, on February 21 The New York Times published its own attack on Soon, and other media outlets began repeating the lies.

The controversy quickly sparked attacks on other climate researchers. Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) issued letters to seven university presidents demanding information on funding sources and exchanges with certain researchers who have testified before Congress concerning climate change. Sens. Edward Markey (D-MA), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) sent letters to 100 businesses and nonprofit organizations, including The Heartland Institute, demanding information on sources of funding and any funding or support provided for climate research.

Heartland responded forcefully. We established a comprehensive webpage highlighting Soon’s scientific accomplishments, providing links to 59 articles defending his research as well as papers attacking his ethics. We also published a careful analysis of the slanders against Soon, written by Dr. Robert M. Carter.

Newspapers and magazines covered Heartland’s pushback. A March 2 New York Times article stated, “[Soon’s response] was released by the Heartland Institute of Chicago, which supports and publicizes the work of scientists like Dr. Soon who deny the scientific consensus on climate change.” Scientific American reported, “Meanwhile, the conservative right is lining up to defend Soon. Joseph Bast, president of the Heartland Institute … canceled his talk at the Conservative Political Action Conference last month to help block some of Soon’s detractors.”

In a letter to Markey, Boxer, and Whitehouse, Bast wrote, “[Your letter is] part of a campaign to stigmatize and demonize those who question the alarmist claims of Greenpeace and other far-left groups in the environmental debate. So first, shame on you for abusing your public office in an attempt to silence public debate on such an important public policy topic.”

Heartland delivered thank-you letters from Bast to 11 members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works who had written to us defending sound scientific research and the free debate of ideas. We also gave a voice to climate realists under attack, through podcasts with Monckton and University of Delaware climatologist Legates.

Legates discussed the support he and his fellow researchers received from the broader scientific and research community.

In a Heartlander digital magazine article, Research Fellow H. Sterling Burnett noted
the American Meteorological Society responded to Grijalva’s letter with a letter of its own stating, “Publicly singling out specific researchers based on perspectives they have expressed and implying a failure to appropriately disclose funding sources – and thereby questioning their scientific integrity – sends a chilling message to all academic researchers. Further, requesting copies of the researcher’s communications related [to] the preparation of testimony impinges on the free pursuit of ideas that is central to the concept of academic freedom.”

In an op-ed for the Daily Caller, Burnett wrote, “Even some climate alarmists believe Grijalva has gone too far. Bob Ward, policy director for the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, a frequent critic of climate skeptics, tweeted, ‘Politicians should not persecute academics with whom they disagree. No ifs or buts.’”

National Public Radio’s All Things Considered aired a story on Soon and the “chilling” letters of Grijalva and Markey, Boxer, and Whitehouse. The report includes a clip of one of Soon’s presentations at the Ninth International Conference on Climate Change and quotes his public statement on this controversy. Burnett discussed the letters and Heartland’s response on the What’s Up radio program on KKHT-FM (Houston, Texas), while Senior Fellow James M. Taylor discussed the matter on the cable network Al Jazeera America.


Promoting Honest Climate Science
More big climate policy news came in the quarter with the forced resignation of Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), under fire from sexual harassment allegations. Heartland covered the story in Climate Change Weekly and the Heartlander digital magazine.

A January 5 Investor’s Business Daily op-ed by Burnett, “How Many of World’s Poor Will Climate Alarmists Let Die?” argues, “Humans have long fought a war with climate, and where we’ve won it has been through the use of technology, most recently including the use of fossil fuels.” In March, Heartland helped the U.S. House Science, Space, and Technology Committee line up speakers to brief committee members on the current state of climate science.


The March 20 Drudge Report linked to an Environment & Climate News article by Greenpeace founder Dr. Patrick Moore titled “Why I Am a Climate Change Skeptic,” resulting in roughly 400,000 views, 35,000 Facebook likes, 3,000 tweets on Twitter, and 35,000 viewings of the associated YouTube video clip.

Heartland Science Director Jay Lehr spoke about global warming to nearly 1,000 people at events hosted by scientists, political action groups, and agricultural organizations in Indiana, Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

In a Washington Examiner op-ed, Editor Justin Haskins analyzed Pope Francis’s decision to make global warming an important papal cause. “The Pope[s] … big climate-change push fails to recognize the overwhelming evidence suggesting immediate catastrophic global warming is not oc-
curring,” Haskins wrote. Burnett covered the topic in Climate Change Weekly, Environment & Climate News, Human Events, and as a guest on the What’s Up radio program (KKHT-FM, Houston). (See Heartland President Joseph Bast’s description on Page 1 of our trip to Rome to urge Pope Francis to seek out more reliable and less alarmist advice on climate change.)

Tenth International Conference
By the time you receive this newsletter, the Tenth International Conference on Climate Change (ICCC-10) will have been held in Washington, DC. Nearly 50 speakers will have addressed what we expect will be a full house of congressional staff, journalists, and opinion leaders. A full recap will appear in the next QPR. In the meantime, you can download PowerPoints, watch videos of the presentations, and get other details at climate-conference.heartland.org.

Keep the Energy Flowing
Heartland’s push for a pro-environment, pro-jobs energy agenda for state lawmakers has been succeeding beyond our expectations. Heartland policy experts met with gubernatorial staff and/or legislators in nearly two dozen states: Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Our message: “The best way to be pro-environment is to be pro-energy! Affordable, reliable, and plentiful energy enables us to protect the environment while creating jobs and the goods and services we need.” Among other policies, Heartland encourages states to freeze or rescind expensive, environmentally harmful renewable energy mandates.

In the first quarter, legislators in West Virginia repealed the state’s renewable power mandate, and the New Mexico House of Representatives passed a bill freezing its mandate. A February 1 article that ran in the Idaho Statesman, Tampa Tribune, Charleston Gazette, and San Francisco Chronicle quoted Burnett as saying, “One can only hope other states follow West Virginia’s sensible lead.”

Heartland published Research & Commentaries calling for repeal of renewable portfolio standards in Kansas and Vermont. On the January 30 environment podcast, energy expert Tom Tanton discussed research finding the federal government understates the costs, overstates the benefits, and entirely ignores a range of environmental harms caused by state renewable energy mandates.

Environment & Climate News covered two critical energy victories: the resignation of the nation’s “greenest” governor, Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber, amid a pay-for-play scandal regarding his green-energy policies, and the U.S. Senate vote to end the wind-energy Production Tax Credit. Heartland provided additional coverage of Kitzhaber’s resignation on its Somewhat Reasonable blog and in a podcast with John Charles of Oregon’s Cascade Policy Institute.

Florida’s Solar Boondoggle
The Florida solar power industry has been pushing a ballot initiative to amend the state constitution to give solar power providers an exclusive right to place equipment on homes and businesses to generate and sell power to the property owners.

A Heartlander article by Senior Fellow James M. Taylor critiquing the proposal generated substantial interest among grassroots conservative and libertarian groups. Americans for Prosperity Florida hosted a telephone town hall joined by more than 1,000 people,
during which Taylor explained how the plan stifles free markets. He debated Floridians for Solar Choice Chairman Tory Perfetti at a public event in Tampa, covered by the *Tampa Tribune* and other news outlets.

**Preserving Fracking and Frac Sand Mining**

The hydraulic fracturing revolution is responsible for our nation’s newfound energy abundance and resulting decline in oil and natural gas prices. Accordingly, anti-fossil-fuel activists are targeting fracking. Heartland has been working hard to defend the industry against false claims.

A *Heartland Policy Brief*, “A Critical Assessment of ‘Air Concentrations of Volatile Compounds Near Oil and Gas Production,’” by Policy Advisor Rich Trzupek, identified significant flaws in a study purporting to show fracking causes dangerous air quality problems. Trzupek said the study “is a useful example of the kind of distortions, misrepresentations, and agenda-driven hysteria that too often characterize studies like this.”

The U.S. Senate rejected a proposal to grant the Environmental Protection Agency authority over groundwater used in the fracking process, and Erie, Colorado rejected a proposed fracking moratorium. Conversely, the federal government issued its first rules regulating fracking on federal and Indian lands. Those regulations will raise the cost of fracking, Research Fellow Bette Grande noted in a February 24 podcast. On Fox News Channel’s *Your World with Neil Cavuto*, Science Director Jay Lehr argued the regulations were unjustified, saying, “We fractured a million wells between the beginning and when the shale gas boom began, and we really haven’t proven that there’s been a single water supply well contaminated.”

Anti-fossil-fuel activists also have targeted producers of the specialized “frac sand” found almost exclusively in a few counties in Wisconsin and Minnesota, where anti-fracking activists have pushed for bans on frac sand mining. Houston County, Minnesota was the first test case of anti-frackers’ clout, and Heartland proved up to the challenge. Initially, the county board unanimously approved a nonbinding resolution to ban sand mining. In response, Research Fellow Isaac Orr sent his analysis of the proposal to the commissioners, and Heartland responded to questions on the issue. Orr explained, “Banning sand mining in Houston County would be a detrimental policy decision. Sand mining can be a positive contributor to local economies that creates quality job opportunities and infuses much-needed wealth into a variety of other businesses.” The county commission ultimately rejected the proposed ban.

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**Performance Highlights**

- Published three issues of *Environment & Climate News*, 13 issues of *Climate Change Weekly*, and five issues of *Weather Bulletin*.
- Produced two *Policy Briefs*, six *Research & Commentaries*, and one *Tip Sheet* on energy, environment, and climate issues.
- On environment and climate issues, logged 670 personal and 42,782 group contacts for a total of 43,452 contacts with legislators.
- On energy issues, logged 1,361 personal and 50,104 group contacts for a total of 51,465 contacts with legislators.
- Produced 25 new podcasts on environment, energy, and climate issues attracting 85,573 listeners.
- On environment and climate issues, generated at least 381 broadcast, online, and print media hits reaching more than 13.4 million people.
- On energy issues, generated at least 87 broadcast, online, and print media hits reaching more than 2.2 million people.
Renovation is underway at The Heartland Institute’s new home at 3939 North Wilke Road in Arlington Heights, Illinois. We plan to move into our new permanent home in mid-June. Excitement is running high!

Our New Home

Living on the 27th floor of a glass and steel high-rise in downtown Chicago has its advantages, but it has disadvantages, too. The rent is steep, so our space is increasingly cramped. The events we hold here are poorly attended because many of our donors live in the suburbs, while those who work downtown can’t get away for the time it takes for a lunch program. Parking downtown can cost $20 an hour or more!

Our new home in Arlington Heights brings us closer to where our donors live. It has easy access to O’Hare International Airport, is within 30 minutes of more than 20 colleges, and has off-road free parking for 68 cars. The space will easily accommodate our current staff of 30 and can be modified to accommodate 45 full-time staff or even more.

Best of all, the new building has lots of room for a research library and public meeting space. We hope the library will attract scholars from across the country and around the world to spend a week or two as “visiting scholars,” staying at the hotel just four blocks from our front door.

Thanks to Our Donors

A particularly generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous enabled us to buy our new building and pay for the renovation without having to take out a mortgage. However, he hopes we can raise funds to offset the costs so his gift can be used to advocate for freedom and limited government. That’s eminently fair, isn’t it?

We are seeking to raise a total of $2 million to cover all the costs associated with purchasing and renovating the building and a three-year maintenance and operations fund. We have raised $300,000 so far, a good start given we’ve been too busy to launch a proper capital campaign!

Special thanks to Dr. John B. Mazur, who asked to have the library named after his deceased brother, Michael Mazur. Thanks also to the Robert P. Fettig family for a contribution that gives them naming rights to the conference room. And to our first diamond sponsor, David G. Herro, for his generous support.

Your Legacy

Our capital campaign is an opportunity for you to make a one-time gift or multi-year pledge and have your name, or the name of a loved one or someone you admire, displayed at one of the nation’s leading free-market think tanks. Staff, visiting scholars, guests at events, and others will learn of your commit-
ment and remember your generosity.

Donor recognition opportunities include naming rights to several public spaces, a donor recognition wall in the main lobby, and endowed chairs, speakers series, internships, and resident scholars. Please take a look at the two tables on this page and consider making a generous gift. Contributions are tax-deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

**Want to Learn More?**

Ask for a free prospectus describing our capital campaign and other major gift and donor recognition opportunities. Please contact Gwendalyn Carver, director of development, at 312/377-4000 or gcarver@heartland.org or write to her at The Heartland Institute, 3939 North Wilke Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004.
Learning is easier and faster when properly designed incentive systems are used. But teachers are trained not to use them – almost entirely for ideological reasons.

Rewards: How to use rewards to help children learn – and why teachers don’t use them well marshals the psychological and economic evidence to refute the arguments against incentives. This important new book explains how rewarding students, teachers, and schools for their progress can work – and makes a powerful case for more school choice.

To order, visit store.heartland.org or Amazon.com

October 2014, 192 pages
$14.95
The Global Warming Crisis is Over

Global warming is the biggest scientific controversy and public policy debate of our times. A leading source of research and commentary on the issue, the United Nations’ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), is hopelessly politicized, alarmist, and discredited.

There is another, more reliable, source of information: the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC). NIPCC is an international network of some 50 independent scientists from 15 countries, with no financial stake in the debate. It has published four hefty volumes of scientific research to date, with a fifth volume in production.

Scientists found:
The human impact on climate is very modest, much less than the impact of natural cycles. Future warming due to human greenhouse gases is expected to be only 1-2 deg. C in the next 100 years.

The impact on public policy:
Global warming is not a crisis. The threat was exaggerated and here is no need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and no point in attempting to do so.

For those who still say global warming is a crisis:
The UN’s latest report walks back nearly a dozen earlier claims, contains more than a dozen errors, and tries to cover up new discoveries that contradict its earlier claims.

To learn more visit climatechangereconsidered.org or heartland.org/issues/environment

The Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change (NIPCC) is a project of the Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change, the Science and Environmental Policy Project (SEPP), and The Heartland Institute.
The Heartland Institute is a 31-year-old national nonprofit organization based in Chicago. Its mission is to discover, develop, and promote free-market solutions to social and economic problems. For more information call 312/377-4000.
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The Heartland Institute relies on the generosity of approximately 5,300 donors - people just like you! - for financial support. You can help! Please use the space below to buy a one-year gift membership for a friend, coworker, or neighbor. We will send them a letter announcing your gift with their first QPR. Contributions are tax-deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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☐ $250 SUSTAINING  Sustaining donors also enjoy a 20 percent discount on all events and are included with our professional staff in monthly conference calls on the hottest issues of the day.

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