March 10, 2015

and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Washington, DC 20510-6175

Dear Senators Markey, Boxer, and Whitehouse,

I received by email your letter dated February 25 requesting a detailed accounting of The Heartland Institute’s funding of “scientific research and scientists, as well as support for other efforts related to climate change.”

According to a news release posted at Senator Markey’s website, the same letter was sent to 99 other businesses and nonprofit organizations as 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. I am grateful that a majority of members on the Committee on Environment and Public Works has strongly condemned your views and tactics.

Second, you repeat the vicious libel that Dr. Wei-Hock “Willie” Soon failed to disclose funding for his work. Are you not aware that neither his employer, the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, nor the journal that published the scholarly article in question, Science Bulletin, has found Dr. Soon violated any of their rules or disclosure policies? Who asked you to repeat that lie?

Third, I am very proud to report that The Heartland Institute has spent millions of dollars over the past ten years supporting scientific research that contradicts alarmist claims about climate change. The New York Times calls us “the primary American organization pushing climate change skepticism.” The Times is not a credible source on this topic, but you three probably find it persuasive.

Fourth and finally, all the information you need about our funding and programs can be found in our annual tax returns or at one of the following websites: heartland.org, heartland.org/issues/environment, climaterechangereconsidered.org, and heartland.org/reply-to-critics.

Sincerely,

Joseph L. Bast
President