

Presbyterians for Restoring Creation (PRC) is a group whose mission is to promote environmental awareness within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We have approximately 650 members. From time to time the Steering Committee on behalf of the membership addresses issues of national and international importance.

We would like to comment on the Draft Report on the Environment recently released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). While the report is full of useful information and analysis, we are extremely concerned with what it says and does not say about global warming. To write global warming off as a “scientific challenge” and to dismiss the scientific consensus that has emerged about the consequences of warming for humans and other species represents the triumph of ideology over “best science.”

The public is weary of the tendency in this administration to use science selectively only when it supports its ideology and interests. In particular, PRC is deeply troubled by the accounts that the EPA, at the direction of the White House, deleted portions of the report on global warming and substituted wording favorable to the oil industry. Assuming these accounts are correct, it would seem the EPA has become the tool of vested interests.

The evidence of global warming is all around us. The theory that relates warming to the release of so-called “greenhouse” gases is well established. The “best science” is in. Further study, while essential, will not stop the damage done by reckless burning of fossil fuels. We are endangering future generations of all species by fiddling around with endless and redundant studies while Rome burns.

We urge the EPA to restore the deleted sections on climate change and to recognize the scientific consensus on this issue.

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