

Fraser Institute Briefing Document

For use at the Fraser Institute's press conference scheduled
for Monday, February 5, 2007

prepared by

DESMOG BLOG.COM

CLEARING THE PR POLLUTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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About DeSmogBlog

DeSmogBlog exists to clear the PR pollution that is clouding the science on climate change.

An overwhelming majority of the world's climate scientists agree that the globe is warming - the world's climate is changing - and that the indiscriminate burning of fossil fuels is to blame. We know that the risks are incalculable and, increasingly, we understand that the solutions are affordable.

Unfortunately, a well-funded and highly organized public relations campaign is poisoning the climate change debate. Using tricks and stunts that unsavory PR firms invented for the tobacco lobby, energy-industry contrarians are trying to confuse the public, to forestall individual and political actions that might cut into exorbitant coal, oil and gas industry profits. DeSmogBlog is here to cry foul - to shine the light on techniques and tactics that reflect badly on the PR industry and are, ultimately, bad for the planet.

The planned announcement by the Fraser Institute

On January 30, 2007, the Fraser Institute issued a media advisory stating that they would be holding a press conference in London, England on Monday, February 5, 2007.

The Fraser Institute claims that it will release an “independent summary” of the latest report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), that is set to be released February 2, 2007 in Paris, France.

The Fraser Institute claims that their report has been prepared by “qualified experts in fields related to climate change.” The Institute further claims that their report “lays out the real state of current climate knowledge.”

According to the Institutes media advisory, the following “experts in fields related to climate change” will be in attendance:

Ross McKittrick
Andrei Illarionov
David Henderson
David Bellamy

The list of authors of the report are listed as:

WRITING TEAM

Joseph D'Aleo
Madhav Khandekar
William Kininmonth
Christopher Essex
Wibjörn Karlén
Ian Clark
Tad Murty
James J. O'Brien
Olavi Karner

Briefing notes on the press conference attendees and the writing team follow.

You will also find a briefing outlining the history of the Fraser Institute's direct funding connections to ExxonMobil and examples of “independent” scientists that have worked for the Fraser Institute.

ExxonMobil

The Fraser Institute received \$120,000 between ExxonMobil 2003 and 2004.

According to 2003 ExxonMobil Giving Reports, the Fraser Institute received \$60,000 for “climate change.”

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Background on ExxonMobil funding organizations “skeptical” of global warming

“For years, ExxonMobil has been undermining science and casting doubt on the facts about global warming—just like the tobacco industry tried to mislead the public about the dangers of smoking.”

- Union of Concerned Scientists, January, 2007:

For the most up-to-date information on ExxonMobil’s continued funding of global warming “skeptical” organizations, like the Fraser Institute, check out the Union of Concerned Scientists January 2007 report titled: Smoke and Mirrors, and Hot Air: how ExxonMobil uses big tobacco tactics to manufacture uncertainty on climate science.

The prestigious British Royal Society issued a statement to ExxonMobil in September 2006 expressing concern about the oil company’s continued funding of climate change denial organizations.

Information on Ross McKittrick, *press conference attendee*



Ross McKittrick

According to a search of 22,000 academic journals McKittrick has published 14 peer-reviewed research articles mainly in the area of economics and more recently on the topic of the “Mann Hockey Stick” study from 7 years ago. McKittrick is an Associate Professor in the Economics Department at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

McKittrick has been a “Senior Fellow” at the ExxonMobil funded Fraser Institute since October, 2002.

McKittrick is listed as an “expert” with the George C. Marshall Institute, a US think tank that has received \$630,000 from ExxonMobil since 1998.

Information on Andrei Illarionov, *press conference attendee*



Andrei Illarionov

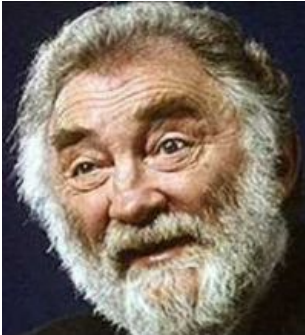
Touted as a former advisor to Russian president, Vladimir Putin. When Russia ratified the Kyoto Protocol, Illarionov claimed that the Protocol was killing off the world economy like an “international Auschwitz.”

Illarionov resigned from the Russian government in December, 2005 in protest against what he called the “end of political freedom.”

Illarionov is currently a “senior fellow” at the Cato Institute, a US-based think tank that has received \$90,000 from ExxonMobil since 1998.

According to sources the Cato Institute has also received from Shell Oil Company, Chevron and the American Petroleum Institute.

Information on David Bellamy, *press conference attendee*



David Bellamy

A well known botanist and environmentalist, in 2004, Bellamy wrote an article in the Daily Mail, a UK newspaper, claiming that the theory of man-made global warming was “poppycock.”

In a letter published in the *New Scientist*, April 2005, Bellamy claimed that a large percentage of the world’s glaciers were advancing (555 of 625), not retreating. On May 29, 2005, Bellamy wrote a letter to the *Sunday Times*, he had “decided to draw back from the debate on global warming.”

Bellamy recently joined a newly formed climate “skeptic” organization calling itself “The New Zealand Climate Science Coalition.” The chairman of the NZ Coalition is Rear Admiral Jack Welch, a retired member of the New Zealand Navy.

Information on David Henderson, *press conference attendee*

David Henderson

Until recently, Henderson was listed as staff member for the Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), an organization that has received over \$2 million in funding from ExxonMobil since 1998.

Henderson is also listed as an “Expert” at the George C. Marshall Institute, a US-based think-tank that has received \$630,000 from ExxonMobil since 1998.

Information on William Kininmonth, *report author*

William Kininmonth

Kininmonth is the Director of an organization called the "Australasian Climate Research Institute." Kininmonth's "Institute" appears to be run out of his home in Australia, as the listed mailing address for the Institute is the same as Kininmonth's residence.

Kininmonth is a frequent writer for a climate change skeptic organization called the "Lavoisier Group," and in Nov. 2004, the Lavoisier Group helped launch Kininmonth's book *Climate Change; a natural hazard*. According to Nov. 27, '04 news article, the Lavoisier Group was founded by Hugh Morgan the former CEO of Western Mining Corporation, a uranium mining company recently taken over by BHP Billiton.

According to a search of 22,000 academic journals, Kininmonth has not published any research in a peer-reviewed journal on the subject of climate change. There is one study published in 1972 by "Kininmon, WR" on the subject of Rain-grown rice in Northern Australia.

Information on Ian Clark, *report author*



Ian Clark

Currently sits on the “scientific advisory board” of a Canadian organization called the “Natural Resource Stewardship Project” (NRSP). The NRSP is an organization founded by the president of a Toronto-based energy industry lobby firm called High Park Group. The NRSP refuses to disclose its funding sources.

Information on Tad Murty, *report author*



Tad Murty

Listed as an “allied expert” for a Canadian organization called the “Natural Resource Stewardship Project” (NRSP). The NRSP is an organization founded by the president of a Toronto-based energy industry lobby firm called High Park Group. The NRSP refuses to disclose its funding sources.

Until recently, Murty was listed as member of another Canadian anti-Kyoto, global warming “skeptic” organization called “The Friends of Science” (FOS). In a January, 2007 newspaper article, the president of the FOS admitted that about three-quarters of their funding comes from the oil and gas sector.

Information on Joseph D’Aleo, *report author*



Joseph D'Aleo

A retired meteorologist, D’Aleo has a Master’s in Science and worked as the “Director of Meteorology” for the Weather Channel.

D’Aleo is a contributing author for Tech Central Station Daily, a news site set up by DCI Group, a Washington, DC, lobbying company who’s client list includes ExxonMobil. Tech Central Station has also received \$95,000 directly from ExxonMobil.

Information on Wibjörn Karlén, *report author*

Retired professor with the University of Stockholm.

Listed as an “allied expert” for a Canadian organization called the “Natural Resource Stewardship Project” (NRSP). The NRSP is an organization founded by the president of a Toronto-based energy industry lobby firm called High Park Group. The NRSP refuses to disclose its funding sources.

The Fraser Institute's "Independent" Scientists

Since 2001, the Fraser Institute has used some of the most notorious climate change deniers in North America to do their work. Many have connections with other organizations that have also received funding from ExxonMobil and other fossil fuel companies.

These include:



Kenneth Green

Former "Chief Scientist" for the Fraser Institute.

Green and ExxonMobil

Kenneth Green is currently serving as a "resident scholar" at a US think tank called the "American Enterprise Institute," (AEI) which has received over \$1.6 million in funding from ExxonMobil since 1998. In a leaked letter from the Summer of 2006, it was uncovered that the AEI was proposing to pay scientists \$10,000 to offer critical analysis of the upcoming IPCC report.

Before joining the Fraser Institute, Kenneth Green was the "director of the environment program" at a US think-tank called "The Reason Public Policy Institute." The Reason Institute has received \$381,000 from ExxonMobil since 1998.



Sallie Baliunas

November, 2001 – Fraser Institute published a *Global Warming: a guide to the science*, authored by Sallie Baliunas and Willie Soon.

Baliunas and ExxonMobil

In the recent Union of Concerned Scientists report on skeptics, Exxon and the tobacco industry, Baliunas is listed as being affiliated with nine organizations that have received funding from ExxonMobil. The organizations are:

- Annapolis Center for Science Based Public Policy (Science and economic advisory council member) - \$763,500 from ExxonMobil
- Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow (Academic and Scientific Advisory Board Member) - \$472,000 from ExxonMobil
- Competitive Enterprise Institute (Report Author) – over \$2 million from ExxonMobil
- George C. Marshall Institute (Senior Scientist and Chair of Science Advisory Board) - \$630,000 from ExxonMobil
- Global Climate Coalition (Featured Scientist)
- Heartland Institute (Writer/contributor) - \$561,500
- Heritage Foundation (Writer/contributor) - \$460,000
- Robert Wesson Endowment Fund Fellow (1993-4.), Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace - \$295,000
- Tech Central Station (Science Round Table Member) - \$95,000 from ExxonMobil

Baliunas and Canadian Energy Lobbyists

Baliunas is listed as a member of the [Scientific Advisory Committee](#) for a Canadian group called the "Natural Resource Stewardship Project," ([NRSP](#)) a lobby organization that refuses to disclose its funding sources. The NRSP is led by executive director Tom Harris and [Dr. Tim Ball](#). An Oct. 16, 2006 CanWest Global [news article](#) on who funds the NRSP, it states that "a confidentiality agreement doesn't allow him [Tom Harris] to say whether energy companies are funding his group."

DeSmog [recently uncovered](#) information that two of the three [Directors](#) on the board of the [Natural Resources Stewardship Project](#) are senior executives of the [High Park Advocacy Group](#), a Toronto based lobby firm that specializes in "energy, environment and ethics."



Willie Soon

November, 2001 – Fraser Institute published a *Global Warming: a guide to the science*, authored by Sallie Baliunas and Willie Soon.

Soon and ExxonMobil

Soon is a Senior Scientist for a US think tank called the George C. Marshall Institute. The Marshall Institute has received \$630,000 from ExxonMobil since 1998.

Soon is a writer for Heartland institute, a US think tank that has received \$561,500 from ExxonMobil since 1998.

Soon is an author for Tech Central Station a news site set up by DCI Group, a Washington, DC, lobbying company whose client list includes ExxonMobil. Tech Central Station has also received \$95,000 directly from ExxonMobil.



Tim Ball

In July 2004 - Ball published a Fraser Institute publication titled: *The Limitations of Global Climate Models*.

Ball and the oil industry

Ball is listed as a "consultant" of a Calgary-based global warming skeptic organization called the "Friends of Science" (FOS). In a January 28, 2007 article in the Toronto Star, the President of the FOS admitted that about one-third of the funding for the FOS is provided by the oil industry. In an August, '06 Globe and Mail feature, the FOS was exposed as being funded in part by the oil and gas.

According to the Globe and Mail, "there was plenty of money for the anti-Kyoto cause in the oil patch, but the Friends dared not take money directly from energy companies. The optics, Mr. Jacobs [FOS president] admits, would have been terrible. This conundrum, he [the FOS president] says, was solved by University of Calgary political scientist Barry Cooper, a well-known associate of Stephen Harper. The oil industry money was funneled through the Calgary Foundation charity, to the University of Calgary and then put into an education trust for the FOS.

Ball and Canadian Energy Lobbyists

Ball is listed as an "Executive" for a Canadian group called the "Natural Resource Stewardship Project," (NRSP) a lobby organization that refuses to disclose its funding sources. The NRSP is led by executive director Tom Harris and Dr. Tim Ball. An Oct. 16, 2006 CanWest Global news article on who funds the NRSP, it states that "a confidentiality agreement doesn't allow him [Tom Harris] to say whether energy companies are funding his group."