

30 May 2013

Congressman McKinley, panelists and guests, thank you for allowing me to appear via the internet. Going to the next slide.

The first point I want to make is that popular scare stories of weather extremes getting worse are not based on fact. In the upper left, tornadoes are not increasing. In the lower left, hurricanes are not increasing. In the upper right, snow cover is not disappearing, in the lower right, droughts and floods continue to happen as they always have.

Next. What about record high temperatures in the U.S.? This chart shows that 2012 had quite a few, but hardly the most. Indeed a careful look shows a downward trend. High temperature records are not becoming more numerous.

Next. What about climate model projections? The red line shows the temperature response to greenhouse gases that the very latest models indicate should be clearly evident - the tropical atmosphere is supposed

to be rapidly warming. The green and blue lines show what the real world has done. The models are significantly wrong compared with the real world in this signature quantity.

Next. Let's suppose for a brief moment that the models are correct. The red line here shows global temperatures over the next 100 years. The harsh policy that congress considered four years ago of drastically reducing CO2 emissions would have the effect seen in the green and blue lines – in other words, no detectable impact. Energy costs would soar without any benefit.

Next. As State Climatologist I work on many economic development issues, including legislation to take advantage of Alabama's climate resources. One thing I know about this area is that if an idea is not economically sustainable, in the long run, it is not sustainable no matter its other intentions.

Next – Finally. Affordable energy is the basis for our standard of living today. Energy comes from the green

box here, mostly from carbon. The benefits of energy are in the blue box, and who doesn't want long life, progress, plentiful food and so on.

The lower green box shows the physical consequences of carbon-based energy production – invigorated biosphere, increased food production and the debated climate impact. The evidence I've presented shows the climate impact of enhancing the concentration of CO₂ is not much.

However, I'm quite certain that making energy more expensive will cause the results of energy in the blue box to become more expensive and therefore more scarce. I've lived in Africa and can assure you that without energy, life is brutal and short. We are not evil people for emitting CO₂, we are good people because we recognize the direct and powerful benefits to human life that carbon-based energy supplies. With that I'll close, thank you.