



July 27, 2007

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
U.S. Senator-Oklahoma
453 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510 -3603

Dear Senator Inhofe:

I am writing to respond to the Senate hearing yesterday in which you showed an email that I sent privately to Dr. Marlo Lewis, analyst with the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

The issue we have before us is the question of whether global warming is occurring, what are its consequences, and what actions we as society can take to address the issue. It is a serious public policy issue that requires the highest level of integrity and honesty.

Dr. Lewis has informed me that he believes global warming *is* occurring and that he is personally concerned about it. However, he said that he is charged with fighting against global warming policy because he and CEI are paid to fight against what they call Big Government. I informed him two years ago that this seemed to me to be the height of intellectual dishonesty, and was offended that they are slowing down a U.S. response to global warming.

In May 2006 I also discussed this with Fred Smith, CEI's president. I asked him, given that he is a Phi Beta Kappa mathematics graduate, how he could not believe the statistical findings of the UN's IPCC consensus of thousands of scientists. He declined to answer, and we exchanged thoughts again on the honesty or dishonesty of CEI's work on global warming.

It is apparent to me, and I believe many others as well, that CEI's staff believes that global warming is occurring, but is being paid to argue against it. I respectfully object to allowing this dishonestly to undermine others in the global warming debate.

Mr. Smith, Dr. Lewis and I have had exchanges of communications over the past two years on this, and there is a degree of private jousting in those words. None of this was intended for the public. This was private.

Now that the private, jousting communications have been made public by CEI, people have a right to know the context for this. I am arguing for honesty and integrity in the global warming debate. The people at CEI have made it clear that they are fighting

against global warming policy, not because they believe in their arguments, but because they are on a general campaign against big government.

ACORE is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization and I, as a conservative person, have worked to develop private sector solutions to the deployment of renewable energy as a contributing solution global warming. We have convened the renewable energy industry, the financial community, and the policy community to develop the best possible policies that maximize private sector action within the most effective government role at the lowest cost to the taxpayer.

I am embarrassed to have the private email given to the public, and wish your staff had inquired with me before conducting a hearing. The lack of due diligence embarrasses everyone. I have apologized to the public for offending so many people who had no understanding of the situation. I apologize to you because you clearly were not briefed on the background of this.

I will be happy to testify to your committee or meet with you directly to discuss this in person.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Eckhart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael T. Eckhart
President

Cc: Administrator, EPA