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## "... the need for climate action is bound together with the struggle for racial equality and liberation."

-- Al Gore

August 13, 2021

Mr. & Mrs. John R. Venrick 20561 Wild Horse Ranch Rd Rollins, MT 59931-9800

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Venrick,

So now you are a "racist" if you question climate extremism?

According to the climate alarm movement, the answer is, "Yes, you are."

As preposterous as it sounds, climate "doomsdayers" are trying to tie the unrelated issues of "racism" and "climate change" together in an attempt to propagandize America's youth into embracing their eco-socialist agenda.

You have probably heard of the America-hating "Critical Race Theory." Climate activists are taking that dangerously wrong-headed idea one step further – pushing a radical ideology they call "climate justice."

This theory holds that racism is somehow fueling a "climate emergency." It is both crafty and disturbing.

A few weeks from now, a rising generation of young Americans will arrive at universities to receive higher education.

What they will receive, however, is a relentless *indoctrination* into the neo-Marxist worldview of their professors. Including the idea that the world faces a "climate emergency" that only socialism and leftist "racial justice" can cure.

Dissent will not be allowed. Open debate will be banned. Independent thinking will be stifled.

More discerning students will run the risk of being "cancelled" – completely ostracized – for even the slightest deviation from the dogma of the extreme Left.

That is, Mr. & Mrs. Venrick, except on those campuses where there is an active CFACT Collegians chapter – thanks to your past support of the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow!

On those campuses where your giving to CFACT has allowed us to establish a CFACT Collegians outpost, the "climate emergency" will be debated ...

- ... its many scientific fallacies exposed ...
- ... its deceitful tactics examined ...
- ... and its true ideological agenda revealed.

Yes, on campuses where CFACT Collegians are active, students may still hear the propaganda of the radical Left, unfortunately. But the lies of the Green Left will also be challenged, and students will be enlightened with the facts. Discussion and open debate will be expected and encouraged, rather than stifled.

I wish our CFACT Collegians could be on every campus in America. And someday, I pray they will.

Which is why I write to you today – to ask you to once again support the brave efforts we are making to counter climate extremism as colleges and universities re-open this fall.

Specifically, I ask you to help us meet our bold and urgently necessary goal of launching new CFACT Collegians chapters on at least <u>20 additional campuses</u> this academic year.

The urgent need for so many more of these successful CFACT Collegians programs is critical.

Let me give you some examples of what young Americans will be facing as classes convene a few weeks from now.

• Course Material: At Syracuse University, in a course called "Geographies of Environmental Justice," students will be required to examine "environmental quality and social justice ... then explore these concepts through a series of case studies of urban environmental (in) justice in the U.S."

*Translation:* Though seemingly innocent, this course description really means students will be taught the false premise that racist Americans living in suburban and rural areas are destroying the health and environment of poor, urban minorities.

• Course Material: At George Mason University, in a course called "Critical Race Studies," students will be subjected to "theoretical frameworks including critical race theory and intersectionality theory in order to examine the structural roots of racism and the implicit and explicit ways in which racism manifests today."

*Translation:* Students will be taught the ridiculous fiction that America was founded purely on racism. They will be further taught the outrageous

notion that the prosperity and freedom they enjoy today has only been made available to them because people of color have been, and continue to be, discriminated against by white Americans.

• Course Material: At the University of Washington, the course called "Climate, Justice, and Energy Solutions" will examine "solutions including building a resilient society with clean energy, sustainable agriculture, climate justice, and a just transition for workers."

*Translation:* Those taking this course will be taught that the only way society can progress is by transitioning from a free, capitalist society into a controlled, socialist one. Fossil fuels will be demonized, and unreliable solar and wind will be propped up as "solutions" to bring humanity into an earth-friendly existence filled with peace and goodwill between cultures.

• Course Material: At Sterling College in Vermont, students will now be able to pursue a so-called "Climate Justice Minor." This course of study will address such questions as, "Should privileged countries and communities bear more responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions? What are the systems and interests perpetuating the carbon dioxide emissions?"

Translation: In layman's terms, the entirety of this so-called "minor" will focus on how the world can force prosperous countries like the United States to pay for their supposed climate "sins" against the developing world. Terrible and corrupt ideas like financial handouts from the USA to poorer nations, regressive climate taxes on our industries, and onerous regulations on our businesses and families will be pushed as so-called solutions to the alleged climate crisis.

<u>I will tell you how I see it</u>. I see "climate justice," "environmental justice," and climate extremism – in all its forms – as a desperate attempt to update the failed ideas of Marxism and rebrand them in order to appeal to the impressionable young minds of today.

The old Marxism was all about "class struggle." The old propaganda formula of "workers and oppressors" just doesn't play anymore.

So, this *new* Marxism has been repackaged to instead be about a global "race struggle," in which capitalist "oppressors" like you and me are said to be using warming temperatures as a weapon against minorities.

It's never been about "saving the earth." Rather, it's about *transforming* the political structure of every nation on Earth into an autocratic, socialist nanny state.

Of course, <u>CFACT is fighting back</u>. That's what we do! Thanks to the generous support of friends like you who share our vision of sane and rational climate and energy policy.

In our everyday, all-out effort to confront climate fearmongering – on the internet, in the media, even at the United Nation's own climate conferences – nothing is more important than our **CFACT Collegians** program.

There is nothing else like it in the climate realist community.

No one else is taking on the climate Left in their greatest stronghold – and the place of their greatest impact on young minds – the American academic community!

If we expect our freedom to survive into the next generation, this is work we MUST do. And only the support of friends like you make it possible.

America's students will return to colleges and universities in the next few weeks. If you and I are to effectively push back against the radical Left's new campus-based, environmental racism strategy, my staff here at CFACT has calculated that we must raise at least \$325,000 before the end of September.

This is the amount we need to:

1. Host 10 expert speakers from the black conservative community to counter the lies of college administrators and professors about so-called environmental racism and climate justice.

Cost: \$100,000 – includes honorariums and traveling fees.

2. Organize campus watch parties of CFACT's groundbreaking films, *Climate Hustle* and *Climate Hustle 2: Rise of the Climate Monarchy*, to show students there is no climate crisis and that the Green Left's proposed solutions are simply socialism masked as environmentalism.

Cost: \$20,000 – for rental space fees and organizing expenses.

3. Recruit 25 new CFACT **Driessen Fellow** campus interns and residents – named after CFACT senior policy advisor Paul Driessen, author of *Eco-Imperialism:* Green Power Black Death – to be grassroots organizers on their campuses. As such, they will be trained to mobilize students for effective action against the Left's shameful abuse of "racism" and "climate justice" through unique campus events, recruitment drives, and more.

Cost: \$125,000 - at \$5,000 per Driessen Fellow.

4. Coordinate 12 letter-to-the-editor campaigns against the extreme Green policy agenda in student, local, and regional papers across America, to inform the public that there are student leaders who reject the cries for socialism from the likes of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders – and who instead favor liberty and freedom.

Cost: \$5,000 - for organizing expenses.

5. Organize our annual CFACT Collegians "Eco Summit Conference," where student leaders from across America will gather to hear from CFACT experts presenting the real science behind climate change, meet and network with other like-minded students, learn effective activism and organizing techniques, and gain the opportunity to put real stewardship into action.

Cost: \$75,000 – for traveling fees, speaker fees, and conference venue.

Let me just add here, there is nothing like our Eco Summit conferences. Yes, we gather our committed young CFACT Collegians and train them to be more effective in taking on the Green Left.

But our CFACT Eco Summits also attract the genuinely curious young people who have had a daily diet of climate propaganda in the K-12 school years and sense something is not right about what they have been force fed.

At our Eco Summit, attendees will hear, <u>sometimes for the first time</u>, hard truths about climate science from expert speakers.

Some of these lecturers are not just from the political Right, but also from those who were once on the Left – names like **Dr. Patrick Moore**, **Michael Shellenberger**, and **Dr. Steve Koonin** – who have seen the light and are now speaking out against the lies and deceptions of climate alarmism and the Green New Deal.

At the CFACT Eco Summit, students will be given facts – including through movies like our *Climate Hustle* series – that will inform them that much of what they're being taught in their classroom is false.

And they will be given the ammunition to win climate debates in the classroom with facts, such as: There is no "97% consensus" about climate change science, severe weather events are NOT worsening, polar bears are not going extinct, oceans are not rising at unprecedented rates, and much more.

CFACT Collegians attending our Eco Summit will learn from intensive workshops and grassroots activism sessions.

They will learn how to effectively film "man-on-the-street" style interviews to expose climate activists and inform their peers of the truth ...

... how to perform recruitment drives on campus to grow their club ranks ...

...and, most importantly, how to effectively organize impactful events on campus like speakers, documentary screenings, and activism.

All attendees of CFACT's Eco Summit will also be taught the value of true stewardship by going out into nature and experiencing it for themselves.

In past trips, this has involved swamp boat tours on the Louisiana bayou, visiting a manatee refuge center in Florida, hiking and kayaking on the lakes of Minnesota, and

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performing community service for villages in Mexico by repainting buildings, building chicken coops, and delivering solar ovens.

What do students think of the CFACT Eco Summit?

Here are a few words from students who have attended our previous conferences:

"This was one of the most informative and engaging conferences I've ever been to. The global warming narrative is all about government control."

- Marcus Swentkofske, Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama

"This is the best conservative student conference I've been to, and I've been to a lot of them!"

- Vivianne Gonzalez, University of New Mexico

Yes, young people today are being manipulated by the Green, race-baiting Left.

They're being indoctrinated. And they are being played as pawns in a long chess game that radical environmentalists and Green socialists are determined to win.

But our CFACT Collegians program is making a difference.

I hope you will agree today to support CFACT's Collegians program and our efforts to push back against this dangerous tide.

Because, on campus after campus, the CFACT Collegians program has become a <u>major obstacle</u> to the Green Left's obsession with shutting down any debate on climate issues.

But let me pause right here to mention that our program is not only important because it challenges the science and ideas being pushed by the Left.

It is also important because it encourages those on the political Right to remain true to their conservative and libertarian ideals.

I know it sounds inconceivable, but there are now groups popping up on the Right that have as their sole mission that of convincing conservatives and libertarians they need to embrace climate action and radical environmental policy.

And they are seeing some success – *especially with young, impressionable students*.

Groups like <u>American Conservation Coalition (ACC)</u>, <u>RepublicEn</u>, <u>C3 Solutions</u>, <u>ClearPath</u>, <u>Citizens' Climate Lobby</u>, and <u>Conservatives</u> <u>for Carbon Dividends</u> are making inroads with conservative leaders, and even Republican members of Congress.

They are now trying to position the conservative and libertarian movement to support things like carbon taxes, subsidies for renewable energy, the Paris Climate Accord, and even a Green New Deal "Lite."

You and I know these "solutions" aren't solutions to anything, other than allowing socialism to come to America perhaps a bit more slowly.

But, unfortunately, many young conservatives and right-leaning politicians are buying into the idea that they need to jump on the radical environmentalist bandwagon in order to stay relevant in elections, not be ostracized by their peers, and keep receiving fundraising dollars.

Here are some of the recent activities they've undertaken to lure in young conservatives into their lite-Green web:

- ACC has started <u>50 student chapters</u> on college campuses throughout the United States. These chapters host congressmen and speakers who are in favor of subsidies for solar and wind energy.
- Citizens' Climate Lobby sponsored the national conference held by Young Americans for Liberty, where they interacted with over 400 students who attended in northern Virginia.
- ACC and RepublicEn hosted a roundtable at Students for Liberty's LibertyCon, which hosted hundreds of libertarian student leaders from around the world.
- ACC sponsored Turning Point USA's Student Action Summit, where they
  interacted with the 4,000 conservative students that attended in West Palm
  Beach, Florida.
- Conservatives for Carbon Dividends bought high level sponsorships at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), where they had access to nearly 10,000 attendees, mostly College Republican members.
- ACC invited all conservative and libertarian students attending CPAC to an all-expenses-paid happy hour called the "Conservative Power Hour," at the Walrus Oyster & Ale House in National Harbor, Maryland.
- ACC also sponsored Freedom Fest, a large annual gathering of libertarians, just last month in Rapid City, South Dakota.

It's a clever ruse, likely funded by monies flowing from groups supported by leftwing billionaires like Tom Steyer and George Soros.

Ultimately, however, ceding our high ground will only deliver one thing: *victory* to the Left and the climate alarmists.

There is no negotiating with the evils of socialism.

Yet some refuse to understand this. And these groups I mentioned above are seeing big gains at the grassroots level.

CFACT, however, is working to check their advances.

We have purchased sponsorships at CPAC, Turning Point and Students for Liberty conferences so that we can confront these fake Green conservative groups, interact with attendees, and give students actual facts about climate and energy – and *not* the "Green New Deal Lite" propaganda these false-flag operations are spewing.

In fact, CFACT was also a sponsor of the most recent Freedom Fest in South Dakota.

There we debated ACC publicly on stage in front of all the conference attendees to confront their false message on climate and energy.

A highlight was when our own <u>Marc Morano</u> took apart the president of the ACC, Benji Backer, for his praise of Greta Thunberg during a congressional hearing.

Said Morano:

"My biggest concern is Benji sat beside Greta Thunberg at a congressional hearing in 2019. He turned to Greta and thanked her for raising awareness to the climate issue for young people across the world. To me, that was horrific. Greta Thunberg has done more to instill alarm in young people with scientific nonsense than any person in the world."

The audience erupted into hearty applause.

The bottom line is, it is not just the political Left we need to confront this coming year, but also infiltrators coming from the Right.

That's why the CFACT Collegians program is so vital. Not just to CFACT, but to the entire debate surrounding energy and the environment – and yes, even to America's very future.

And here is one final thing to consider:

While the Left is recruiting unquestioning followers to its cause, the CFACT Collegians program is <u>creating leaders</u>.

CFACT Collegians are reaching young adults who refuse to be part of campus "herd-think."

Though fewer in numbers, the students reached through CFACT Collegians are <u>much more likely</u> to be leaders and shapers of opinion – not just at college, but throughout their lives.

Our long-term goal is to build a nucleus of young Americans who believe that freedom – individual and economic – is the way to solve problems.

Not massive government. Not socialist economic policy. And not a climate justice movement offering a false hope of racial justice.