

Editor:

Representative Noel: There is no ‘conspiracy’ and no ‘gravy train’ – and Yes, CO2 is a Pollutant.

In response to your recent question at the Legislature, here’s one definition:

A substance or condition that contaminates air, water, or soil. Pollutants can be artificial substances, such as pesticides and PCBs, or naturally occurring substances, such as oil or carbon dioxide.

CO2 is a Planetary Pollutant – polluting Earth’s atmosphere and oceans.

We all know that burning fuels produces carbon dioxide and water. Man’s combustion of fossil fuels has resulted in a near doubling of CO2 concentration in the atmosphere, resulting in much greater retention of heat (warming). This is because of CO2’s unique molecular structure, which absorbs infrared radiation. This is well understood and accepted by the great majority of the scientific community. There are other factors, as you have pointed out; CO2 is a very major factor and is under our control.

There is no easy or cheap solution, except for burning less fuel and producing less CO2.

My 7th and 8th grade students at SLCSE (SL Center Science Education) made some informative videos: see www.youtube.com and search for *slcse energy* – all 9 videos should be there. Perhaps your kids or grandkids would also enjoy them.

There are no ‘conspiracies’; there is no scientists’ ‘gravy train’ (your words). There’s just fuel, combustion, CO2, and its unique molecular characteristics. It may be inconvenient, but it is true.

It’s up to you (as a responsible, forward-thinking legislator) and to me (as a scientist-engineer and educator) to do something useful about it. We can start by defeating HJR012 when it comes up for a vote.

Thanks for the discussion at the Legislature.



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