

To all concerned re: Extreme weather Senate enquiry:

I am a 30-year-old man with grave concerns for our future generations, our wildlife, our environment. In an overpopulated world with finite and ever-scarce resources, it is more important than ever that we throw all our effort into curbing our impact on the atmosphere.

Humanity has done it before, with the banning of CFCs, due to the terrible effect this chemical had on ozone and its subsequent health effects on people, which are still being felt today.

Since I was a child, man-made climate change was never in doubt. Decades before then, as far back as the 1960s, scientists were pointing out that our burning of fossil fuels would irrevocably alter the environment in catastrophic and deadly ways. It is only now in the last decade, as we see these accurate predictions unfold, that we are faced with a massive opposition to changing our ways in the form of science-denial, by those who bizarrely claim we are not impacting the environment, in the face of all evidence and data.

We are changing the climate with our reckless activities - and people are dying, whole species are dying, and will continue to die in disastrous storms, droughts and fires. Not only that, but the food chain will collapse as ocean acidification rises, killing plankton, krill and coral, destroying the marine food chain from the bottom right up to us.

Also, the benefits to medicine are deeply impacted by the destruction of the environment. For example, it was recently discovered that the giant panda contains within its blood a powerful natural antibiotic that could benefit humans. However, this species is greatly endangered and does not breed well in captivity, only in its natural environment. The medicinal benefits of plants and animals are manifold and have frequently been utilised to our benefit. There are benefits in the natural kingdom we have yet to discover that we are simply destroying before discovery, to our detriment.

The opposition to taking action - actual, real, day-to-day action - on our environmental impact primarily comes from business. However, in the first place, there can be NO business at all if the intricately interconnected environment collapses around us. There is also business potential, in an age of rising unemployment, in building sustainable energy sources; efficient housing and transport; and new farming methods.

Please, endorse and enforce action to protect this precious and finite and deeply scarred world.

Regards
Brad