

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Trail Times July 11, 2023

A time for politicians to reflect

This letter is a response to Richard Cannings' article on the Editorial page of the Trail Times, July 6, 2023, and entitled "Summer break a time to reflect".

Contrary to Mr. Cannings' doomsaying, there is no climate crisis! Our carbon emissions (aka "carbon dioxide", "CO₂") are not overheating the planet, which should be obvious to anyone keeping track of temperatures.

Furthermore, a "net-zero economy" will lead to fewer jobs and a poverty-stricken country. As I reported in my recent letter to the editor (June 13, 2023), "the threat of a policy-induced societal catastrophe is very real if the West continues its war on the gas of life"; that is, CO₂.

May I respectfully suggest that Mr. Cannings use his summer break to reflect on the merits of fossil fuels and carbon dioxide, starting with the following facts.

Coal, oil, and natural gas ("fossil fuels") are not only essential in sustaining the Earth's population but also in developing modern industrial economies.

Fossil fuels were "formed in the earth from plant or animal remains" (Merriam Webster). These ancient plants grew by

consuming carbon dioxide stored in the atmosphere and oceans.

When fossil fuels are used to provide energy, the locked-in carbon is being returned to its source (atmosphere and oceans) where it can once again sustain life on Earth as carbon dioxide, also known as "the gas of life" or "plant food".

Carbon is the foundation of all life on Earth and CO₂ is a vital part of the carbon cycle. Animals exhale air containing CO₂ that is 100 times the concentration of atmospheric CO₂ while plants take in CO₂ and release oxygen.

Unfortunately, the recycled CO₂ from fossil fuels will not significantly replenish today's atmosphere, which has a CO₂ content well below the optimum level for plant growth. In fact, this trace gas has been reduced by ongoing sedimentation processes to a level dangerously close to the threshold level for plant growth.

Contrary to political dogma, the foregoing clearly reveals that the belief in a CO₂-induced climate crisis defies logical thinking and reality.

If Western Civilization is to survive, it must embrace the efficient use of fossil fuels, including the return of its carbon emissions (CO₂) to the atmosphere.

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