

WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE

Fighting an Imaginary Climate Hobgoblin

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The capture and storage of carbon (aka "carbon dioxide", "CO₂") is an example of waste, fraud, and abuse, which is unwittingly endorsed by many politicians.

Waste: The subsidization of carbon-capture-and-storage ("CCS") facilities is a waste of tax dollars because CCS facilities are redundant. The oceans are a very effective carbon sink, consistent with basic phase-equilibrium principles; specifically, Henry's Law.

Fraud: The need for CCS facilities is driven by the mistaken belief that CO₂ is a pollutant and has the power to cause a climate crisis. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact:

- CO₂ is the gas of life;
- CO₂ is as important as water, oxygen, and sunlight in sustaining life on the planet;
- The CO₂ content of the atmosphere is much less than the optimum level for plant growth;
- Atmospheric CO₂ has been reduced by natural processes to a level dangerously close to the no-growth level of 150 ppm; and
- The planet's reserves of fossil fuels are inadequate to generate sufficient CO₂ to restore the CO₂-rich ancient atmospheres.

Abuse: The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines "abuse" as "language that condemns or vilifies usually unjustly, intemperately, and angrily". Undeniably, both the CO₂ molecule and the "deniers" of a CO₂-induced climate crisis have been subjected to unrelenting abuse.

Moreover, the catastrophic release of CO₂ from underground storage is a potential threat to life, an ultimate abuse. For example, on August 21, 1986, Lake Nyos in Cameroon suddenly emitted a massive cloud of CO₂, which suffocated 1,746 people and 3,500 livestock in nearby towns and villages.

Obviously, the capture of CO₂ should be driven by market demand and not by the unwarranted vilification of CO₂ nor by the fear of an imaginary climate hobgoblin.

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