

Editor, Times-Dispatch:

Regarding the report of June 19th, "Environment report revised", it was disheartening to learn that the impending EPA report on the state of our environment has fallen victim to yet another bout of imbalanced political expediency out of the White House. Though it extends a litany of environmental transgressions that actually began within hours of the current administration taking office, I'll spare your readers and instead share some pertinent facts that date back to times just before the first Bush presidency was coming to a close.

In December 1992, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) published a report entitled "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity". This was a document signed by over 1600 eminent senior scientists representing 71 countries; of this number, over 100 were Nobel laureates. It states "We the undersigned, senior members of the world's scientific community, hereby warn all humanity of what lies ahead. A great change in our stewardship of the earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided... No more than one or a few decades remain before the chance to avert the threats we now confront will be lost and the prospects for humanity immeasurably diminished".

This fact is not commonly known because, when this news was released, it was not carried on the major TV networks and was deemed "not newsworthy" by the likes of the Washington Post and the New York Times, among others. Given what IS considered newsworthy (O.J., Monica, Martha, etc, etc.), it is increasingly difficult to find a shred of hope in the current state of affairs.

Regarding the current White House position

questioning the existence of "hard science" supporting the viability of climate change, I cite this: In December 1995, over 2500 climatologists and other experts gathered for the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change whereupon they reviewed over 20,000 papers on climate and weather. The consensus was clear. Yet another prolific group of individuals concurred that global warming is occurring and that human activity is a major contributor.

So the question becomes this: as living beings dependent on the health and long term viability of natural systems, to which group shall pay attention - - those whose primary motivation is landing another four year contract or those who have absolutely no reason to alter the truth?

*NOTE: This letter was selected as Correspondent Of The Day when it was published.