

*Editor, Times-Dispatch:*

*Regarding Trevor Berwick's July 3 letter entitled "Enviros React With Knee-Jerks", I'd like to address his nonsensical and misinformed views.*

*First, in stating that global warming is "ludicrous", was he aware that, in December 1995, over 2500 scientists convened for the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and concluded that it is occurring and that human activity is a major contributor?*

*Second, Mr. Berwick's facetious notion of "painting deserts white" illustrates profound ignorance, especially in light of the fact that unsustainable human development around the world is largely responsible for desertification in the first place.*

*Third, environmentalists' reactions to the "pillowy white clouds" pouring from coal-fired power plants are primarily directed at the harmful byproducts in those emissions, with mercury being the gravest threat. Under current regulations, polluters across the country are 'allowed' to release up to an aggregate 50 tons per. A single teaspoon of mercury can poison a 50 acre lake, which makes Mr. Berwick's inaccurate focus on "steam venting" all the more offensive.*

*Finally, his belief that "trees waste enormous amounts of resources fighting for height while consuming up to 40 gallons of water per day per tree" indicates astounding ignorance. Trees – and nearly all terrestrial plants – play a critical role in regulating the water cycle through evapotranspiration: they draw water down into the soil, through the photosynthetic process and back into the atmosphere. There is no waste involved here. And it is the trees – not grasses*

*- that are more effective at cycling water and absorbing carbon (as well as fixing nitrogen in the soil).*

*Mr. Berwick's proposed "solutions" not only perpetuate the very problem they purport to solve, they create new ones. Therefore, he should consider revisiting the source of his "science" prior to sharing them with the public in the future.*