We’re Looking For Ten Climate Scientists Who Will Do What The Ten Florida Scientists Have Done.

Bob Horn, Human Sciences and Technology Advanced Research Institute, Stanford University

A recent Millennium Alliance for Humanity and the Biosphere (MAHB) blog explained how ten climate scientists have influenced the close Florida governor’s race. Here’s a follow-up to that previously posted report.

The “I’m not a scientist” brush-off

Florida’s Gov. Scott who is running for re-election, has brushed off reporters and questioners who ask about climate change with “I’m not a scientist” and swiftly moves on to other topics. Many other Senators, Governors, and Representatives are using the same kind of brush-off, in an attempt rhetorically to get around having to say straight out that they don’t understand or don’t believe that climate change is happening and humans are causing it.

But....

As an article by Prof. Jeff Chanton in this MAHB Blog described, ten Florida scientists confronted Gov. Scott with a letter that says in part “We are scientists...And we would like the opportunity to explain what is at stake for our state.”

Scientist’s success by presenting the science

They got the meeting, partially with the help of a climate policy advocate, Susan Glickman, who made sure to have local and national reporters on hand. According to Katherine Bagley, a writer for Inside Climate News, “In Tight Florida's Governor's Race,
Climate Change Is a Central Issue.” The subhead of that article summarized the effect of the scientist’s meeting: “Voter concern over vanishing beaches and fresh water may force GOP Gov. Rick Scott to run against his party's platform and his record.”

**Needed ten scientists in twenty-five states**

Now here’s the kicker... “Over 56 percent — 133 members — of the current Republican caucus in the House of Representatives deny the basic tenets of climate science. 65 percent (30 members) of the Senate Republican caucus also deny climate change. What this means is that they have made public statements indicating that they question or reject that climate change is real, is happening, and is caused by human consumption of fossil fuels,” according to CAP Action War Room. Many of them are using the same or similar “I’m not a scientist” brush-offs, such as “I don’t know enough.” “There’s still debate on the issue.” “I met a scientist who said that the science isn’t settled.”

**Could you be one of the ten in your state?**

Scientists are in a great position to respond credibly to this brush-off and make an enormous difference. And when you step up, it does not take much to get the facts on the table for all to see. Are there ten scientists in these states who can get together to put climate change as an issue in their campaigns? I hope so. And please let us hear about it.

**Which congressional districts and which states?**

The list of states where this education of public officials is needed can be found below and [here](#).

**Could you be one of the non-scientists who help?**

Are there non-scientists like Susan Glickman, the Florida Director of the Southern alliance for Clean Energy, who brought the Florida scientists together, and who got the local and national press to the meeting with the governor, who can facilitate this action in their states? I hope so.

**Oh, and by the way, the election is less than a month away.**
Here’s more data from CAP Action War Room:

“Members of GOP leadership and the committees that make critical decisions on national energy policy and air pollution have even higher concentrations:

- 90 percent of the Republican leadership in both House and Senate deny climate change
- 17 out of 22 Republican members of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, or 77 percent, are climate deniers
- 22 out of 30 Republican members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, or 73 percent deny the reality of climate change
- 100 percent of Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Republicans have said climate change is not happening or that humans do not cause it.”

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AND, THIS JUST IN …

...The “Florida Ten” have become the Florida 42 and are planning a further conference before the election. They have gotten international coverage from Reuters on this. Here’s a partial quote:

“TALLAHASSEE (Reuters) - A group of 42 scientists from Florida universities submitted a joint letter on Thursday urging Governor Rick Scott and other state leaders to participate in a summit this fall to seek solutions for climate change.

The group plans to host a conference of state and national policymakers and scientists Oct. 6 in Tampa, along with engineers and entrepreneurs who have "job-creating solutions." Scott, who is a Republican, has come under fire from environmentalists for not taking stronger action over sea level rise and climate change.”

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HERE’S A LIST OF THESE CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS IN THE DENIER CAUCUS AND THEIR DISTRICTS

ALABAMA
Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL-04)
Rep. Spencer Bachus (R-AL-06)
Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL-05)
Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-AL)
Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL)

ALASKA
Rep. Don Young (R-AK-At Large)

ARIZONA
Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ-08)
Rep. Paul Gosar (R-AZ-04)
Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)

ARKANSAS
Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR-01)
Rep. Tim Griffin (R-AR-02)
Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)

CALIFORNIA
Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA-42)
Rep. Jeff Denham (R-CA-10)
Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA-50)
Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA-49)
Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-01)
Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA-04)
Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA-22)
Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA-48)

COLORADO
Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO-06)
Rep. Cory Gardner (R-CO-04)
Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO-05)
Rep. Scott Tipton (R-CO-03)

FLORIDA
Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL-25)
Rep. Jeff Miller (R-FL-01)
Rep. Bill Posey (R-FL-08)
Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)

GEORGIA
Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA-10)
Rep. Doug Collins (R-GA-09)
Rep. Phil Gingrey (R-GA-11)
Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA-01)
Rep. Tom Price (R-GA-06)
Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (R-GA-03)
Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA)

IDAHO
Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID)

ILLINOIS
Rep. Rodney Davis (R-IL-13)
Rep. Randy Hultgren (R-IL-14)
Peter Roskam (R-IL-06)
Rep. John Shimkus (R-IL-15)

INDIANA
Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN-08)
Rep. Todd Rokita (R-IN-04)
Rep. Todd Young (R-IN-09)
Sen. Dan Coats (R-IN)

IOWA
Rep. Steve King (R-IA-04)
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)

KANSAS
Rep. Lynn Jenkins (R-KS-02)
Rep. Mike Pompeo (R-KS-04)
Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS)

KENTUCKY
Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY-04)
Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-KY-01)
Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)
Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)
LOUISIANA
Rep. William Cassidy (R-LA-06)
Rep. John Fleming (R-LA-04)
Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA-01)
Sen. David Vitter (R-LA)

MARYLAND
Rep. Andy Harris (R-MD-01)

MICHIGAN
Rep. Dan Benishek (R-MI-01)
Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI-04)
Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-MI-02)
Rep. Candice Miller (R-MI-10)
Rep. Mike Rogers (R-MI-08)
Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI-06)
Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI-07)

MINNESOTA
Rep. Michelle Bachmann (R-MN-06)
Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN-03)

MISSISSIPPI
Rep. Gregg Harper (R-MS-03)
Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)

MISSOURI
Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO-03)
Rep. Vicky Hartzler (R-MO-04)
Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO-02)
Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)

MONTANA
Rep. Steve Daines (R-MT-At Large)

NEBRASKA
Rep. Lee Terry (R-NE-02)
Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE)
Sen. Mike Johanns (R-NE)
Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE-03)

NEVADA
Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV-02)

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)

NEW JERSEY
Rep. Scott Garrett (R-NJ-05)
Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ-07)
Rep. Jon Runyan (R-NJ-03)

NEW MEXICO
Rep. Steve Pearce (R-NM-02)

NEW YORK
Rep. Michael Grimm (R-NY-11)

NORTH CAROLINA
Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC-05)
Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC-08)
Rep. Walter B. Jones (R-NC-03)
Rep. Robert Pittenger (R-NC-09)
Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC)

NORTH DAKOTA
Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-ND-At Large)
Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)

OHIO
Rep. John Boehner (R-OH-08)
Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH-01)
Rep. Bob Gibbs (R-OH-07)
Rep. Bill Johnson (R-OH-06)
Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH-15)
Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-OH-12)
Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH)

OKLAHOMA
Rep. Jim Bridenstine (R-OK-01)
Rep. James Lankford (R-OK-05)
Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK-02)
Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK)
Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK)
MAHB-UTS Blogs are a joint venture between the University of Technology Sydney and the Millennium Alliance for Humanity and the Biosphere. Questions should be directed to joan@mahbonline.org

MAHB Blog: http://mahb.stanford.edu/blog/looking-for-climate-scientists/

DOCUMENTATION: Quotes that these Senators and Congresspeople have made about climate change are listed on this website:
http://thinkprogress.org/climate-denier-caucus/