

A Global Warming Primer

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT
The Science, the Consequences, and the Solutions

Jeffrey Bennett



A Global Warming Primer

aley Dessler

4

The Solution

Stop Here
There is no
solution
ajw
7/25/19

We have many advantages in the fight against global warming, but time is not one of them. Instead of idly debating the precise extent of global warming, or the precise timeline of global warming, we need to deal with the central facts of rising temperatures, rising waters, and all the endless troubles that global warming will bring. We stand warned by serious and credible scientists across the world that time is short and the dangers are great.

— **Senator and Republican presidential candidate John McCain, May 12, 2008 (speech at Vestas Wind Energy Training Facility in Portland, Oregon)**

I hope that by this point in the book, you'll understand and agree with the statement above by Senator John McCain. Moreover, while some people may debate Senator McCain's degree of conservatism, the fact that he won the Republican nomination for president should once again make clear that the science of global warming is *not* a partisan issue.

Of course, the fact that people of all political persuasions can agree on the nature of the problem does not necessarily mean that everyone will agree on the best way to solve it. A discussion of potential solutions therefore takes us away from the "pure science" focus of the previous chapters and into areas that are more a matter of opinion. For that reason, I'll admit to having had some reluctance about including this chapter in the book, because I can't defend everything in it with the same high level of evidence that I've presented in previous chapters. However, I also recognized that if I stopped at the end of the prior chapter, I would have been leaving you with lots of reasons to be concerned about the future without having given you any cause for great hope. And personally, I am very hopeful and optimistic about our future.

So with some trepidation about sharing my personal opinions in a book primarily focused on science, I'll go ahead and explain why I am so optimistic. I've already mentioned the basic reason in the introduction (see my third goal on page 2): I believe that if we go about this