Climate and Congress:
The Making of a Citizen
From Apathy to Action
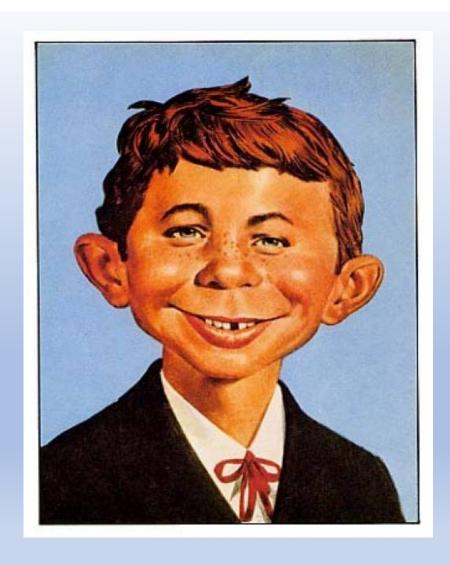
CSTPR Noontime Seminar

October 25, 2017

Grant Couch

AGENDA

- **Personal Background**
- **Climate Education**
- **Possible Solution & Path**
- **Political Education/Appreciating the System**
- **Becoming a Citizen**
- **Takeaways**

COUNTRY HOME...

What, me worry?

Climate Education/Understanding the Issue(s)

- **SCIENCE?**

Image Credit: NASA's Earth Observatory

ATTRIBUTES of a GOOD CLIMATE POLICY

- **CREATES SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN GhG EMISSIONS**
- **OFFSETS THE REGRESSIVE NATURE OF HIGHER ENERGY COSTS**
- **INCREASES U.S. EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMY W/O GROWING THE GOVERNMENT**
- **BUSINESS FRIENDLY**
- **MAINTAINS AMERICA'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ROLL W/O REQUIRING AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT**

"Hands down the best, most informative, brilliantly written book on general climate science I've ever read." —*Daily Kos*

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE
COMING CLIMATE CATASTROPHE AND OUR
LAST CHANCE TO SAVE HUMANITY

STORMS
OF MY
GRANDCHILDREN

JAMES HANSEN

FEATURING A Q&A WITH BILL McKIBBEN

PROPOSED SOLUTION

REVENUE-NEUTRAL PRICE ON CO2

Revenue-Neutral Price on CO2: Carbon Fee and Dividend – "CF&D"

1 Place a fee on fossil fuels at the source (mine, well or port).

2 Return all of the revenue to households equally.

3 A border adjustment on goods imported from or exported to countries without an equivalent price on carbon.

CITIZENS CLIMATE LOBBY / CF&D DETAILS

FEE ON CARBON

- **STARTS AT $10/METRIC TON OF CO2**

- **ESCALATES $10 EVERY YEAR THROUGH THE 2030s**

- **AT POINT OF EXTRACTION (WELL OR MINE) & PORT OF ENTRY**

DIVIDEND

100% OF REVENUES RAISED ARE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS.

BORDER ADJUSTMENT (EXPORTS & IMPORTS)

PREVENTS THE EXPORT OF POLLUTION AND JOBS

ECONOMIC IMPACT of CF&D

- **52% REDUCTION IN CO2 EMISSIONS**

- **ADDITIONAL $70 BIL/YR IN U.S. GDP**

- **ADDITIONAL 2+MM U.S. JOBS/YR BY 10TH YR**

- **DIVIDENDS "PROTECT" 70+% OF AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS**

Source: REMI - Regional Economic Models, Inc.

THE PATH TO PASSAGE:

Citizens' Climate Lobby

. NON-PARTISAN

. 85,000 VOLUNTEER MEMBERS

. TRAINED TO LOBBY & OUTREACH

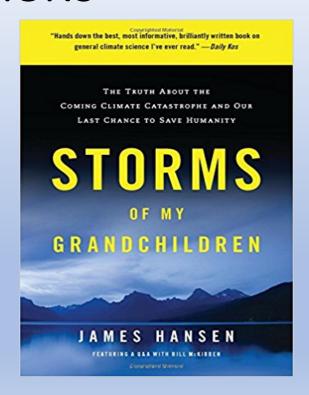. REPRESENTED IN ALL 435 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

POLITICAL EDUCATION:
APPRECIATING THE SYSTEM

"Americans are polarized in the worst possible way — two tribes not so much united by love for their own as hatred for the other."

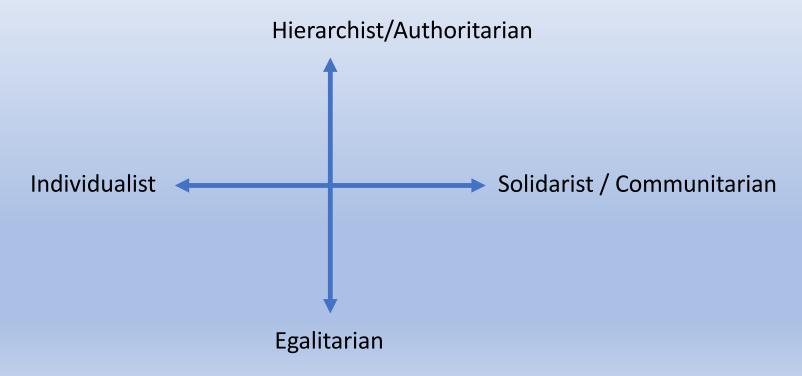David French - National Review
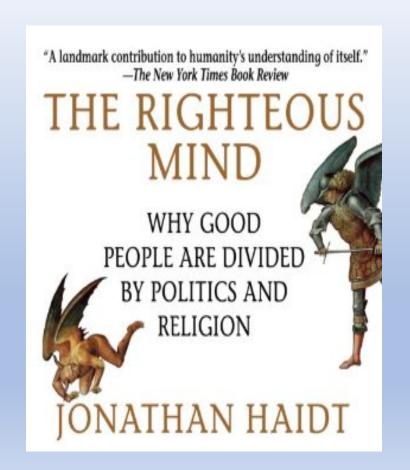
TWO PERCEPTIONS

A DIFFERENT SCIENCE

"Your mother and I are separating because I want what's best for the country and your mother doesn't."

Different Worldviews

Hierarchist/Authoritarian

Individualist ←———————→ Solidarist / Communitarian

Egalitarian

Source: Cultural Cognition and Public Policy by Dan M. Kahan and Donald Braman

"A landmark contribution to humanity's understanding of itself."
—*The New York Times Book Review*

THE RIGHTEOUS MIND

WHY GOOD PEOPLE ARE DIVIDED BY POLITICS AND RELIGION

JONATHAN HAIDT

POLITICAL HISTORY - NOT ALWAYS THUS…

- **Nixon > EPA – 1970**

- **Reagan > Montreal Protocol – 1988**

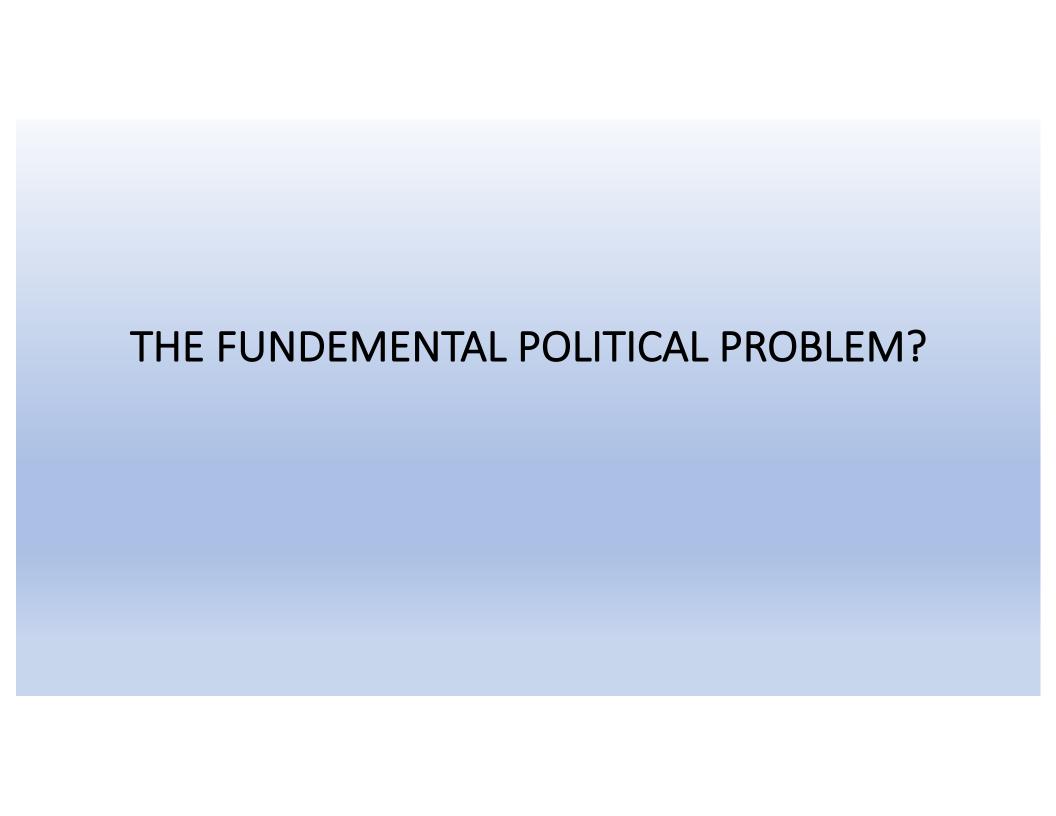- **S.1610 - Global Climate Change Prevention Act of 1989 – sponsored by Claudine Schneider (R – RI) w/bi-partisan co-sponsors**

CURRENT POLITICAL REALITY

- **LOUD**
  - **Hoax / China / "Clean Coal" / Defund EPA**

- **QUIET**
  - **Climate Leadership Council (Shultz, Baker et al)**
  - **Bi-partisan House Climate Solutions Caucus**
  - **Republican House Climate Resolution (H.Res. 195)**
  - **DoD – Defense Secretary Mattis**
  - **Sec of State, Tillerson**

THE FUNDEMENTAL POLITICAL PROBLEM?

Top 10 Priority Issues, by Party Identification

"How important is it to you that the president and Congress deal with each of the following issues in the next year?"

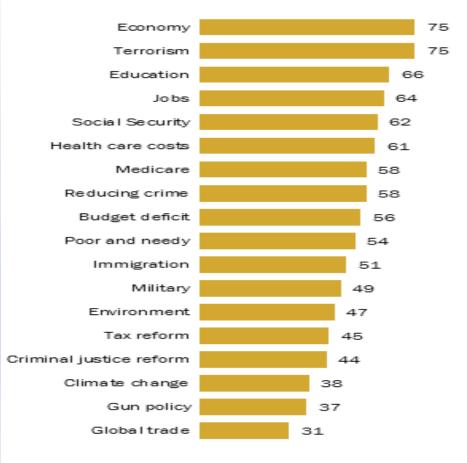| Priority	Democrat/Democrat leaners (%)	Republican/Republican Leaners (%)
1	Economy (91)	Economy (88)
2	Education (91)	Terrorism (77)
3	Poverty and homelessness (82)	Military and defense (76)
4	Healthcare policy (79)	Healthcare policy (75)
5	Social Security and Medicare (77)	Education (70)
6	Distribution of income/wealth (72)	Taxes (69)
7	Crime (71)	Social Security and Medicare (67)
8	Environment (71)	Crime (65)
9	Terrorism (68)	Immigration (54)
10	Gun policy (64)	World affairs (53)

GALLUP®

Mood of the Nation Survey, 2014

% Extremely or Very important

1,018 adults, living in all 50 U.S. states & D.C.

The public's policy priorities for 2016

% rating each a top priority for Obama and Congress

Priority	Value
Economy	75
Terrorism	75
Education	66
Jobs	64
Social Security	62
Health care costs	61
Medicare	58
Reducing crime	58
Budget deficit	56
Poor and needy	54
Immigration	51
Military	49
Environment	47
Tax reform	45
Criminal justice reform	44
Climate change	38
Gun policy	37
Global trade	31

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 7-14, 2016.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

But there is hope…

…the Millennials are coming

Top 6 Issues Millennial's want Supported by any Candidates

	TOTAL	MEN	WOMEN
1) Fixing public schools	58%	50%	65%
2) Promoting clean energy	50%	51%	50%
3) Reducing the Nat'l debt	49%	47%	50%
4) Pay equality for women	48%	37%	59%
5) Addressing poverty	47%	45%	49%
6) Student loan reform	42%	50%	65%

Top Six Desired Political Party Attributes

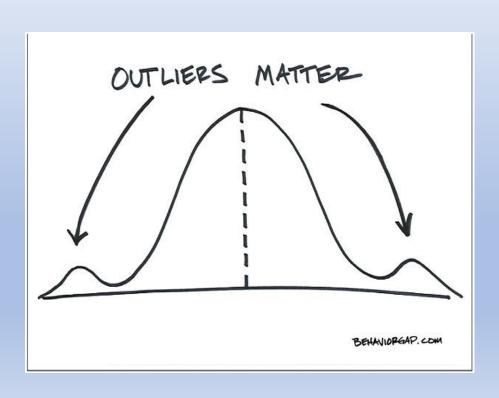|	TOTAL	MEN	WOMEN
1)Racial and gender equality	14	7	7
2)New ways to pay for college	13	7	6
3)Raising teacher salaries and school funding	12	7	5
4)Reducing income inequality	9	6	3
5)Making it easier to move up out of poverty	9	2	7
6)Taking action to address climate change	9	4	4

Source: College Republican National Committee – Millennial Survey June 2016 - www.millennial.gop
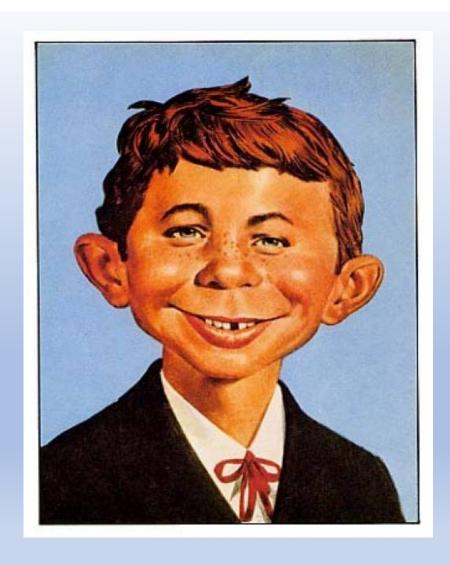
SCIENCE OR RISK MANAGEMENT?

- **WHAT WE CAN "ACCEPT" IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT WE "SHOULD" KNOW**

- **AND WHAT CAN WE "KNOW" FOR SURE?**

The "FAT TAIL" – The "BLACK SWAN"

What,
me worry?

TAKEAWAYS

- **Basic Risk Management calls for Action and there is a "no cost" solution**

- **A strong American economy and environmental quality are not mutually exclusive**

- **Compatible with both Republican and Democrat principles**

Citizens' Climate Lobby

www.CitizensClimateLobby.org

/CitizensClimateLobby

REFERENCE SLIDES

Moral Foundation — 6 Building Blocks

Liberty/Oppression *: the loathing of tyranny*

Care/Harm *: cherishing & protecting others*

Fairness/Cheating *: rendering justice according to shared rules*

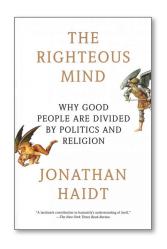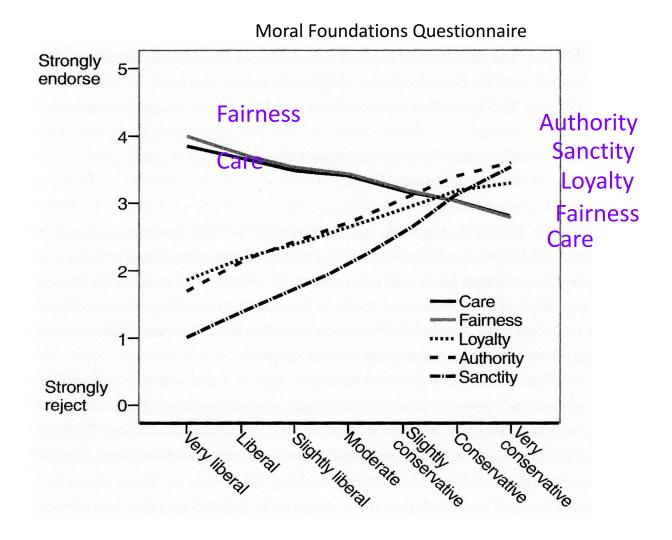Loyalty/Betrayal *: standing with your group, family, nation*

Authority/Subversion *: obeying tradition & legitimate authority*

Sanctity/Degradation *: abhorrence for disgusting actions, things, foods*

Source: The Righteous Mind by Jonathan Haidt

Moral Foundations

Moral Foundations Questionnaire

Benefits of Dividends to US Households

- U Mass Amherst May 2017
  - dividends protect the purchasing power of 89 %of those in the bottom half of the distribution

- US Treasury Analysis Jan 2017
  - Bottom 70% of Americans come out ahead under a carbon dividends program

- International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis– Feb 2016
  - 58% of Americans come out ahead with nearly 90% of the households living below the Federal Poverty Level benefiting from the policy

ANALYSIS
REMI - Regional Economic Models, Inc.

- non- partisan economic modeling group
- respected - and used - by both sides of the aisle and the US government

http://dv7gcmvxe5e8l.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/The-Economic-Climate-Fiscal-Power-and-Demographic-Impact-of-a-National-Fee-and-Dividend-Carbon-Tax-6.9.14.pdf

ARGUMENTS AGAINST PRICING CO2

- DK how much GW is caused by man, or a universally accepted SCC
- Other GW contributors are big (i.e. land use)
- DK how much pricing carbon would help GW or correct emission path
- Disruption of established industries/jobs
- Hurts low income (w/o dividend)

3 PRICING SOLUTIONS:

- **CAP & TRADE (EMISSIONS TRADING)**

- **REVENUE-NEUTRAL – DIVIDEND MODEL**

- **REVENUE-NEUTRAL – INCOME TAX OFFSET MODEL**

REVENUE-NEUTRAL PRICE (RNP) vs. C&T & CPP
POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES

CONSEQUENCE\POLICY	RNP	C&T	CPP*
. Covers each point of consumption - each source of GhG	YES	NO	NO
. Prevents export of pollution and jobs	YES	NO	NO
. Transparent & Predictable	YES**	NO	NO
. Increases US economy & jobs	YES	NO	NO
. Easily replicable internationally	YES	NO	NO
. Allows for reduced regulations	YES	NO	NO
. Consistent national policy	YES	YES	Depends

*Stand-in for any regulations **Ideally it's also gradual

REVENUE-NEUTRAL PRICE vs. C&T & CPP
AVOIDED NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES

CONSEQUENCE\POLICY	RNP	C&T	CPP
Growth in government oversight & regulation	NO	YES	YES
Opportunity for corruption in weaker international states	NO	YES	N/A*
Opportunity for market manipulation	NO	YES	NO

* Not replicable internationally

REVENUE-NEUTRALITY OPTIONS
Household Dividend vs Income Tax Offset

EFFECT\POLICY	DIVIDEND	ITO
Greater acceptance on the right (S/T viability)	NO	YES
Lasting constituency (L/T viability)	YES	NO
Offset regressive nature of higher energy prices	YES	NO
L/T Revenue Neutrality?	YES	NO
Greater increase in GDP*	NO	YES

*Both increase GDP