

Letter to the Editor: *New York Times*

Re: “Climate Change: Lessons From Ronald Reagan” by Cass R. Sunstein,
published November 15, 2012

“Cost/benefit analyses for global warming policies need valid forecasts”

Professor Sunstein is to be commended for advocating cost/benefit analysis for climate change policy proposals, but he fails to note that valid forecasts are necessary. In particular, policy makers should require scientific forecasts that (1) global warming will occur, (2) its effects would be harmful, and (3) there are feasible harm-reduction policies that would be superior to taking no action. It is a 3-legged stool—a failure on any leg means that there is no rational basis for action. To date, there is not a single scientific forecast to support any of the three legs. This conclusion is based on analyses conducted by myself and other forecasting experts since 2007. The forecasting methods used to advocate global warming policies violate many important scientific principles, as described in our peer-reviewed publications. Making policy without proper forecasting of costs and benefits is irresponsible.

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