

NRDC Statement

Lawsuit by Industry-Funded Group to Censor Global Warming Science Fails

Controversial CEI Effort to Erase Key Government Reports Fails, But Government Places Misleading Label On Peer-reviewed Studies

**Remarks by Daniel Lashof, Ph.D.,
Science Director, Climate Center**

Friday, November 7, 2003

Contacts: Eben Burnham-Snyder, 202/513-6254 or 202/277-1045 (cell)

An industry-backed activist group's attempt to censor global warming information has failed. CEI (Competitive Enterprise Institute) dropped its merit-less lawsuit, which sought to delete the 2000 National Assessment of Climate Change Impacts on the United States from government websites. The lawsuit was dropped with prejudice, meaning that CEI can not re-file it.

In a side agreement with CEI, the government has agreed to add text to the website hosting the National Assessment which states that it was ³not subjected to OSTP's Information Quality Act Guidelines.² Today, 31 scientists and analysts from the National Assessment Synthesis Team sent a letter to the Department of Commerce and NOAA stating that this statement is ³misleading and incorrect,² because the report was prepared before the guidelines existed and because it underwent extensive peer review that would have passed muster under the guidelines had they been in place.

Statement by Daniel Lashof:

³CEI claiming victory in this lawsuit is like the Red Sox saying they won the World Series. The National Assessment shows that global warming is a serious threat to our health, our economy and our environment. It went through every step of peer review, involving hundreds of technical experts, and is accepted as authoritative by mainstream scientists.

³The disclaimer¹ cited by CEI as a victory applies equally well to the Bible, the Declaration of Independence and the Surgeon Generals Report on smoking.²

For more information, or to obtain a copy of the letter from members of the National Assessment Synthesis Team, please email Eben Burnham-Snyder at ebsnyder@nrdc.org.

#

The Natural Resources Defense Council is a national, non-profit organization of scientists, lawyers and environmental specialists dedicated to protecting public health and the environment. Founded in 1970, NRDC has more than 550,000 members and activists nationwide, served from offices in New York, Washington, Los Angeles and San Francisco.