

MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

Letter: Risk aversion

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

To prepare against catastrophic risks, people take action to protect themselves. Long ago people didn't have fire insurance; together they rebuilt burned homes because of their social responsibility. Nowadays, facing a low 2 percent risk of our homes burning down, we buy fire insurance. Do 98 percent of homeowners need to buy fire insurance? Yes, because we are catastrophe risk averse.

Human-caused global abrupt climate change is explained to us from an array of fields of science: 99 percent of all peer reviewed journal scientific articles on climate change state unequivocally that it is real; many nations achieved a political consensus of being 95

percent certain of this via the IPCC; and almost every single scientist who works with climate is 99 percent certain that catastrophic climate changes will happen before the end of this century if we continue with business as usual by using fossil fuels as our main source of energy. Already acclimating to "largest on record" as a preface to describing climate events, we have an idea of what lies ahead if we don't change course.

Being "catastrophe risk averse," why aren't we taking action to solve climate change and insure against the high risk of climate catastrophes?

Well, I hear the way several leading tabloid news and talk

radio personalities describe climate scientists from institutions like NASA, Pentagon and Brigham Young University as commie left-wing enviros. By using false reasoning, they appeal to listeners' patriotism as well as social-psychology weaknesses in order for them to reject real science and take no action to protect themselves.

"Listeners," please face up to real science and start solving global climate change. Be patriotic and mentally strong. Pass Fee and Dividend legislation on CO2. Join Citizens' Climate Lobby. Take action and be catastrophe-risk-averse.

Jeffrey B. Ramsey
Troy