

In Chart (b), the same experiment was conducted using only greenhouse gas concentrations (anthropogenic forcings). An overall better match is obtained, particularly over the past few decades, but there are still some significant disparities such as during the first half of the 20th century. In Chart (c), the same experiment was conducted using both greenhouse gas concentrations (anthropogenic forcings) and natural forcings. This experiment simulated temperature changes quite similar to those that have been observed, indicating 20th century temperature trends are best explained by a *combination* of anthropogenic and natural factors; and thus there is a significant human influence on the climate (but humans are not the only cause of the observed temperature changes).

Scientific Consensus on Human Contribution to Global Warming

Scientific consensus about the human contribution to climate change is growing. In December, the American Geophysical Union's 28-member policy council unanimously agreed to issue a statement on behalf of its 41,000 members:

"Scientific evidence strongly indicates that natural influences cannot explain the rapid increase in global near-surface temperatures observed during the second half of the 20th century."

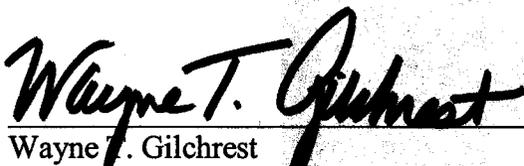
After the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reported the evidence of global warming and the contribution of human activity to this phenomenon in January of 2001, President Bush requested a review of IPCC findings from the National Academy of Sciences. With the included consideration of skeptical scientists, the NAS reported the same conclusions, stating:

"The IPCC's conclusion that most of the observed warming of the last 50 years is likely to have been due to the increase in greenhouse gas concentrations accurately reflects the current thinking of the scientific community on this issue."

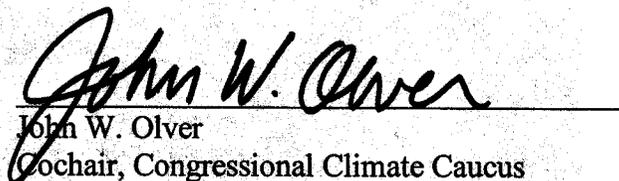
While the scientific community continues to engage in healthy debate over the details of past and projected climate change, and the President has outlined a climate monitoring and research program, the basic conclusions of the research community are that global temperatures are rising and that human activity is contributing to this phenomenon.

For additional information, please contact Edith Thompson in the office of Rep. Gilchrest at x55311 or Abbie Meador in the office of Rep. Olver at x55335.

Sincerely,


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