



Creation Care



The world and all that is in it belong to the Lord, the earth and all who live on it are his. --Psalm 24:1

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Swiss scientists recently reported that the glaciers in Switzerland have shrunk by 15% in the last 20 years because of warming temperatures. If the warming trend continues they estimate that the glaciers in Switzerland will be gone in only 30 or 40 years! The human, environmental, and economic impacts of such an event are



impossible, at this point, to even imagine.

World-wide, the places in which we could always count on to provide plenty of snow for the Olympics are now risky. The Winter Olympic planners are nervous. At the last two Winter Olympics snow was not plentiful and had to be supplemented with snow stockpiling and the use of snow making machines; even then some of the runs were not up to par. ☀☀☀



"Doubt is our product since it is the best means of competing with the 'body of fact' that exists in the minds of the general public." --(1996 memo from the Brown and Williamson tobacco company).

In the Spring 2016 issue I wrote about how the tobacco interests used a variety of means to create doubt, in the minds of the public, about the health hazards of cigarette smoking, and how those same techniques are being used by the fossil fuel interests today to create doubt about the impacts of fossil fuel use on our health and environment. I reported that the New York Attorney General is looking into these allegations and the U.S. Justice Department is considering whether or not to get involved during this disruptive political year.

The legal issue that is being raised against certain fossil fuel corporations is a question of fraudulent concealment of a material fact or failure to disclose a material fact when asked or when one is under a duty to speak; especially when those facts can keep potential victims from taking action which could protect or secure their interests. To date, the attorney generals in 17 states have now joined in the investigation to see if there is due cause for legal action. The Republicans on the U.S. House Science, Space, and Technology Committee are pushing back

against the attorney generals by sending letters to them claiming that their efforts amounted to a violation of the

climate deniers' first amendment rights to "free speech" since there is "honest" disagreement about whether or not climate change exists.

This is the same game plan that was used in the tobacco industry fiasco: What is true? Who is telling the truth? Is someone lying? The tactic is doubt and wait, doubt and wait because that allows the money to keep rolling in like always!

In the meantime, the United States will continue to isolate itself from most of the world where climate change is an accepted reality and where they are working to constructively do something about it. It's a shame because American "Know-How" has a long reputation for creativity and effectiveness; something that we desperately need if we are to keep our nation secure and change the human impact on current climate trends. The question before us is: will we choose to be a part of the problem or a part of the solution? ☀☀☀

Free Enterprise and the Cost of doing Business



According to their Web Site, "The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) affects every household in Ohio. That's because the PUCO regulates providers of all kinds of utility services, including electric and natural gas companies, local and long distance telephone companies, water and wastewater companies, rail and trucking companies. The PUCO was created to assure Ohioans adequate, safe and reliable public utility services at a fair price. More recently, the PUCO gained responsibility for facilitating competitive utility choices for Ohio consumers."

In these changing times fossil fuel companies, from the evidence produced by their own environmental studies, are facing grave long term economic adjustments. Fossil fuels, of necessity, will slowly pass from the scene as the need for and development of sustainable and renewable energy sources escalates and replaces their products. Will they be able to get a "piece of the action" by developing renewable energy products themselves? In our "Free Enterprise" system, can they become enterprising enough to deal with the harsh adjustments needed to recreate and retool? For them, "Armageddon"

lies only a few decades ahead. Here is where the "rubber hits the road!"

I am reminded of the Studebaker automobile company of South Bend, Indiana (*my first three new cars were Studebakers*).

The Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing Company was founded in 1852. They produced sturdy buggies and wagons for farmers, miners, and the military. (The Budweiser show wagon is a Studebaker). Then the automobile was invented and revolutionized transportation all over the world.



The need for horse drawn buggies and wagons disappeared rapidly. The Studebakers adjusted to the change and began producing electric vehicles in 1902 and gasoline vehicles in 1904.



Studebaker was a very inventive company. For example, they revolutionized auto body design by expanding the automobile cabin out in line with its fenders. In spite of top mechanical, body style and innovative business transformations, lack of public acceptance resulted in low sales and they were forced to cease production in the USA in 1963 and in Canada in 1966. Their enterprise, it turns out, was not enterprising enough to meet the challenging/changing times.

Of special interest to us, FirstEnergy corporation, is facing an uncertain fossil future along with tough business costs today as they maintain and operate old below-par plants like Davis-Besse nuclear and W. H. Sammis coal plant. Their worries are many. They have a flawed product and means of production. They face rising competition from an ever expanding renewable and sustainable energy sector that they know holds the key to the future. Worried about their ability to make a profit and maintain their older plants they applied to PUCO for a "bailout plan" that would require subsidizing their operational costs, including a profit, that would be guaranteed by using taxpayer money as needed. Their justification for this request is the same "too big to fail" mantra that other corporations "vital to the public and national interest" used, in the great recession of 2007/8, to justify and receive taxpayer bailouts in the strange world of "corporate welfare" and "capitalistic socialism." Needless to say, PUCO granted their petition in the "public interest;" after all, an uninterrupted flow of



electrical energy is essential to the well-being of our society.

The result of the PUCO action aroused various environmental and consumer protection groups to unite in an educational and legal campaign to get PUCO's approval reversed. The following is a summary of their action from a press release by Earthjustice:

"For Immediate Release, Monday, May 2, 2016 - 3:45 pm, by Earthjustice (1.800.584.6460 | info@earthjustice.org)

Petition Filer to Reverse Approval of FirstEnergy Bailout in Ohio
Petition finds bailout illegal and costly; comes days after federal regulators require review of same bailout transaction.

AKRON, Ohio - Earthjustice, representing the Sierra Club, filed a petition with the Ohio Public Utility Commission seeking a rehearing of the Commission's March 31 approval of a bailout for FirstEnergy Corporation and its shareholders. Under the bailout, utility customers would be forced to subsidize the cost, including a profit, of the W.H. Sammis coal plant, Davis-Besse nuclear plant, by assuming virtually all of the risk that those plants would not be profitable in the wholesale market. The bailout also allows full cost recovery for FirstEnergy's 4.85 percent share of the Kyger Creek and Clifty Creek coal plants. The filing comes just two days after Federal regulators put a hold on the bailout so that they could evaluate its compliance with federal standards to protect captive utility customers from improper affiliate transactions.

At the center of the recently filed petition are four key errors deeming the PUOC's decision faulty, misguided, and unlawful:

1. Ohio law does not authorize forcing customers to subsidize merchant power plants; yet the bailout placed the financial burden and risk squarely on FirstEnergy customers' wallets.
2. The Commission relied on outdated financial forecasts that had already been proven wrong to conclude that customers would not lose money under the bailout; evidence in the record demonstrates that the bailout would likely cost customers hundreds of millions of dollars or more.
3. The bailout would not stabilize customers' electricity rates but, instead, would deprive customers of the benefits of current low energy prices.
4. The Commission credited the bailout with preventing the retirement of the Sammis and Davis-Besse plants, but the evidence shows that FirstEnergy would not retire those plants even without a bailout.

"The Commission should reverse its approval of the illegal FirstEnergy bailout, which puts hundreds of millions of dollars or more of customer money at risk to prop up the profits of shareholders," said Shannon Fisk, Managing Attorney at Earthjustice. "Ohio customers deserve better than the demonstrably inaccurate and unreliable forecasts and empty fear-mongering about power plant retirements and price volatility that FirstEnergy offered and the Commission relied on to approve this illegal deal."

"Ohio's electric utility companies are in a period of transition," commented Dan Sawmiller, Senior Representative of Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign. "Our Public Utilities Commission should not be forcing customers to pay for old coal plants, and instead should be focusing on a responsible transition plan for our state that embraces cleaner sources of

energy production and helps us to reduce the amount of energy we waste in our homes and businesses."

For more information, contact: info@earthjustice.org.

Earthjustice is a non-profit public interest law firm dedicated to protecting the magnificent places, natural resources, and wildlife of this earth, and to defending the right of all people to a healthy environment. We bring about far-reaching change by enforcing and strengthening environmental laws on behalf of hundreds of organizations, coalitions and communities. ☀️☀️☀️



"And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.!" (Genesis 1:31a, KJV). Everything? Even Mosquitoes that carry infectious diseases like Dengue and Zika? I guess with a question like this you simply have to trust God's providence and try to act reasonably under the circumstances.

What do we know about Mosquitoes?

1. In breathing we exhale CO₂ which in turn alerts mosquitoes to our proximity and the tasty blood that the female mosquito (the only one that bites) needs to produce eggs.
2. When they poke their bendable proboscis through our skin, they will probe around for a blood vessel to tap.
3. They inject us with their saliva to prevent our blood from coagulating. Our body's reaction is to release histamine, which makes an itchy welt. If left undisturbed, on average, they will drink for around four minutes.
4. Even a tablespoon of water is enough to provide a cozy mosquito nursery, so drain or treat all stagnant water in places like pet bowls, birdbaths, gutters, dips in tarps, yard garbage, hollow stumps, etc.
5. The chemical, *DEET*, is the common mosquito prevention ingredient used in creams and liquids. Non chemical methods include using a strong electric fan to create a breeze to sit in, because mosquitoes do not like wind. Use mosquito nets, dress in long loose light colored clothing, etc. Adults can use oils like: oil of lemon, eucalyptus, soy, coconut, palm nut, and citronella (*don't burn citronella because the heat and CO₂ it emits actually attracts insects*). All of the above needs to be reapplied every two hours or so to be of any real help.
6. Natural predators include dragonflies, birds, bats and, for ponds, fish. ☀️☀️☀️



"All that is sweet, delightful, and amiable in this world, in the serenity of the air, the fineness of seasons, the joy of light, the melody of sounds, the beauty of colors, the fragrantcy of smells, the splendor of

precious stones, is nothing else but Heaven breaking through the veil of this world." William Law (1686-1761) was a Church of England minister who lost his position at Emmanuel College, Cambridge when his conscience would not allow him to take the required oath of allegiance to King George I. Known for his personal integrity Law taught privately, wrote extensively and had great influence on the evangelical movement of his day. "*The Spirit of Prayer*," "*The Spirit of Love*" and "*A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*" are among his profound writings. (I must take the space to insert one of my favorite lines from "*The Spirit of Prayer*" {Part I, Chapter I, 1754} "***We are all of us, by Birth, the Offspring of God, more nearly related to him than we are to one another, for in him we 'live, and move, and have our being.'***"-from Acts 17:28") ☀️☀️☀️

Kids Sue for a Safe Climate!



A district federal court in Eugene, Oregon decided in favor of the right of 21 youth plaintiffs' to sue the federal government, including the president and several other federal agencies, for discrimination against them for not actively and aggressively addressing the problems of



climate change whose affects, they allege, will deprive them of their fundamental rights to life, liberty and property.

Their argument is based on the due process and equal protection rights given in the 5th Amendment and on the *Public Trust Doctrine*, from English Common Law that was embraced in the *Magna Carta*, the writings of Thomas Jefferson, and cited in U.S. court decisions dating back to the 1800s, that asserts that the government has the duty to protect certain natural resources and systems on behalf of current and future generations.

The Justice Department, backed by a slew of fossil fuel interests, filed a complaint arguing for the case's dismissal, but this Spring, the court ruled in favor of the youth and their concerns and arguments.


Our nation's understanding and reaction to climate change and its twin, global warming, has largely been determined by the interpretation and needs of the political and economic powers that seek to dominate our thinking and our response to climate issues. These youth and the younger generations among them are reacting against the élites who currently protect the status quo and its damming effects on God's creation.

I can only hope that the faith that these youth demonstrate, by working within the democratic system, will be rewarded so that they will trust and use democratic principles, which many of their elders have angrily surrendered, as is evident in today's political slumming.



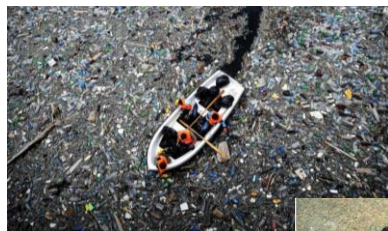
Killing Weeds

Glyphosate is an active ingredient in chemical weed killers like *Roundup*. The *World Health Organization* recently classified Glyphosate as a probable carcinogen and recommended against its use. According to the *Organic Materials Review Institute* the citrus oil-based, *Avenger Weed Killer*, meets its standards for a non-carcinogen herbicide.

A recipe for an alternative herbicide that is both effective and safe comes from David Stone, Sophia, WV. **"Mix one gallon of vinegar, 2 cups of Epson salt, and 1/4 cup of Dawn dish soap. Pour in a sprayer and spray on weeds. It will kill them as well as Roundup does."** The vinegar is a mild acid, and with the Epson salt and the detergent, it forms a scum that coats the weeds. I experimented with this mixture this Spring and found that it is very effective. 



Plastic makes up about 90% of the trash in the world's oceans. Over the last decade we have produced 10 times as much plastic as we did in the entire 20th Century! Each year we throw away enough plastic to circle the earth 4 times. Americans throw away approximately 35 billion water bottles a year, all of which are still in existence in one form or another because plastic takes anywhere from 500 to 1000 years to disintegrate.



This patch of floating trash in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California is the size of Texas!

The hourglass shape of this Turtle was the result of an encounter



with plastic six-pack rings when he was smaller. Cut up your plastic rings!

Even Mount Everest requires a cleanup crew to keep its peak clear of the countless trash items that climbers leave behind.



An estimated 500 billion plastic bags are used every year across the world; that's about 1 million every hour!

This poor Bird is wearing a plastic bag that inhibits his flight. Cut your plastic bags open so that they lay flat.

The remains of this bird show that he ate fish, that had already consumed trash, until his stomach was too full of trash to allow it to pass through its digestive system.



REDUCE what you use
REUSE what you have
RECYCLE what you don't need

We just talked about being Too Messy, now, how about being Too Clean?



It is possible for us to be too clean personally for our own good! Sound stupid? Perhaps not when you think about how the immune system develops. The first problem is that extremely clean environments fail to provide the necessary exposure to germs that are needed to 'educate' the immune system so that it can learn to launch effective defense responses to infectious organisms. The second problem is that some organisms develop resistance to the medications used to treat them

and the substances used to keep things clean creating
"super bugs" that are more difficult to treat and destroy.

