

# Achieving Public Policy Results

Heartland's 7<sup>th</sup> International  
Conference on Climate Change

May 21-23, 2012

Chicago, IL

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# The “*Cool Hand Luke*” Climate Challenge

“What we’ve got here is a failure  
to communicate. Some men you  
just can't reach.”

*Cool Hand Luke* 1967 movie...quote from the “Captain”

# Apolitical Science

- A noble goal for scientists, but noble scientists have become an endangered species
- Applied-science has become science applied towards political influence
- Political activists and advocacy groups have hijacked traditional scientific discourse

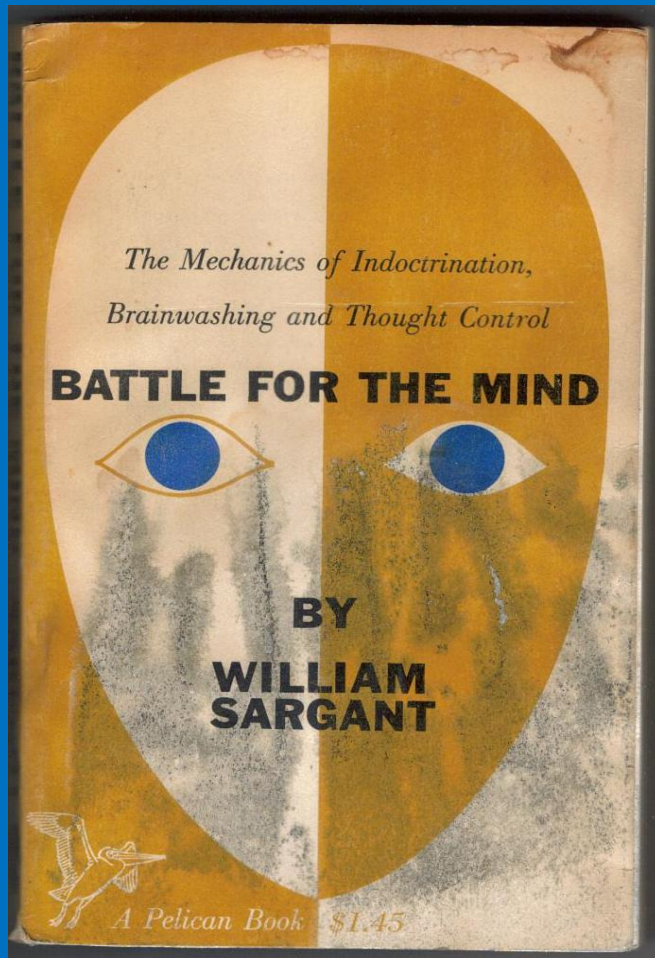
# My 2010 Quixotic Goals

- Persuade Albemarle County, VA to drop its *International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives* (ICLEI) 2007 membership
- Persuade Albemarle County to rescind its 2007 Sierra Club “*Cool Counties*” resolution
- Illuminate U.N. Agenda 21 policies in the local government

# Bridging Science and Public Policy

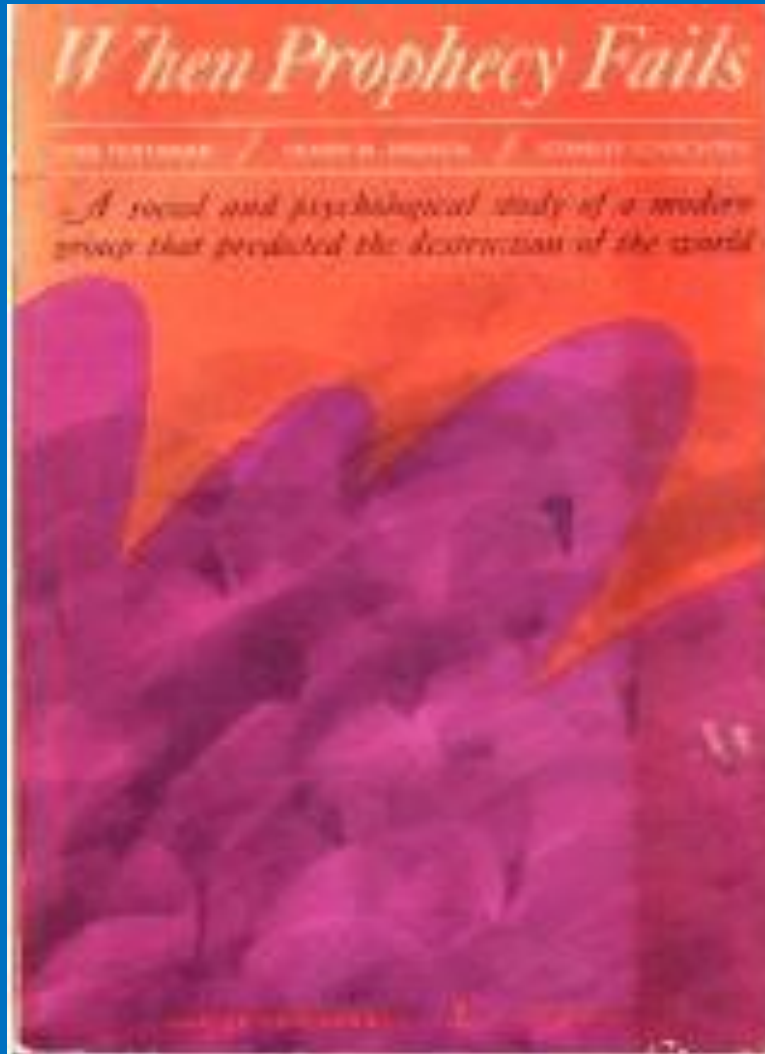
- “All politics is local” a bottom up approach
- Recognize that the local governing board is charged with the approval of the local comprehensive plan and building codes
- Recognize that this where climate issues move from theory to local regulations
- Recognize that environmental advocacy groups are working to influence such plans

# The 1957 “Battle For The Mind” Rages On



- Partial list of topics include: psychotherapy, brain washing in religion and politics...mental fatigue
- 1959 novel: “*The Manchurian Candidate*” (R. Condon) illustrated these techniques

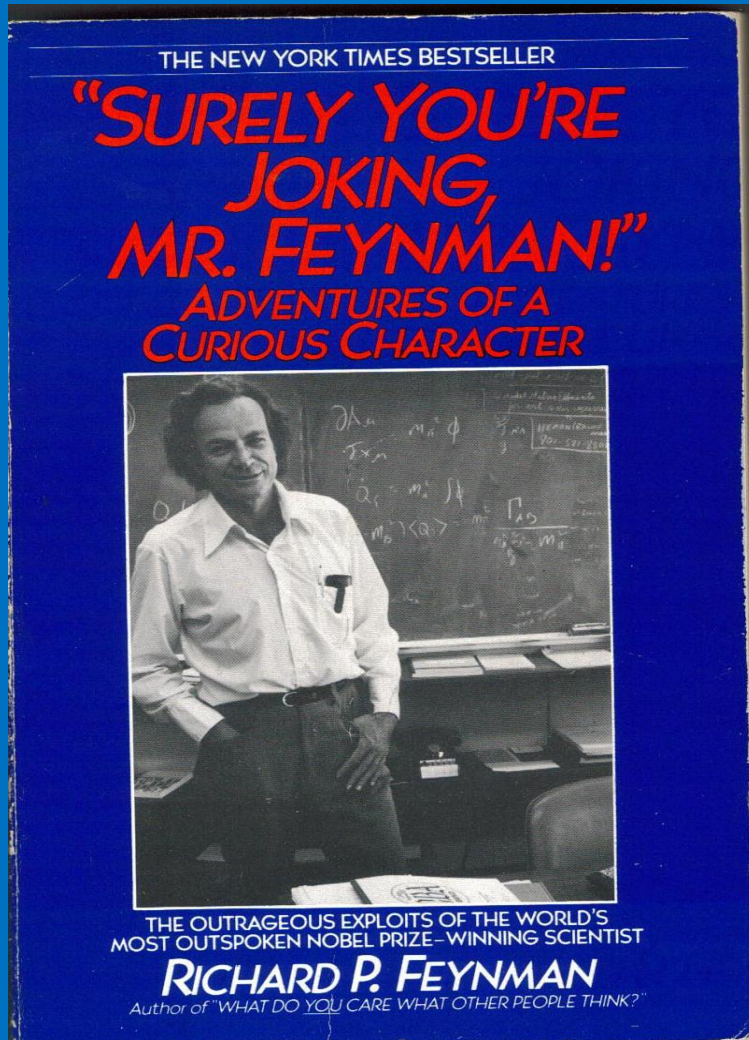
# Cognitive Dissonance



- Book by Leon Festinger et al 1956
- How does the group react if a prophecy fails in which all have a vested emotional and financial investment?
- How to approach such a group?
- Try to give the opposition a graceful way to change its mind.



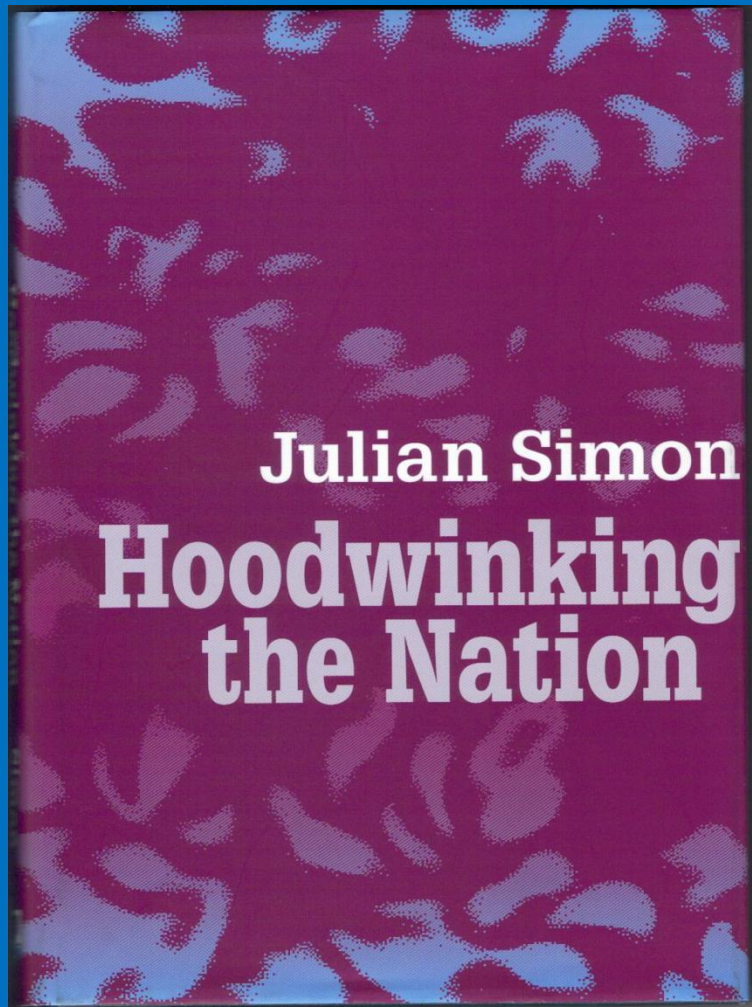
# A Role Model



- The “cargo cult” parable
- Beware of scientists whose overt rituals of scientific methodology lack scientific integrity and produce pseudo science claiming validity
- “outrageous exploits...outspoken”



# True In 1999...Still True Today



- “False bad news” ...
- The vanishing farmland scam
- Scares about resources
- Scares about population growth
- Scares about the environment
- Scared biologists

# J. Simon's "Media-Shaped Opinion" Feedback-Loop Of Perpetual Alarm

1. The media carry stories about environmental scares
2. The public becomes frightened
3. Polls then show the public to be more frightened
4. This worry then is cited as support for politicians to initiate actions about the supposed scares
5. These actions raise the level of public concern further, which the media report again...back to step 1

# Julian Simon's Observations

- There is a predisposition in human nature to accept uncritically “bad news”...perhaps as a cultural and basic survival mechanism
- The hoodwinkers and charlatans of all types...be they politicians, salesmen, scientists, businessmen, or false prophets know how to use this to their advantage

# The Venue:

## Charlottesville/Albemarle County, VA

- Home of Thomas Jefferson
- Home of the University of Virginia
- Former home of Professor S. Fred Singer
- Former home of Professor Pat Michaels
- Former home, and rumored possible future home, of Professor Michael Mann
- Active Sierra Club, Nature Conservancy, and Southern Environmental Law chapters
- Gov. T. Kaine's Climate Change Commission 2008

# Making Use Of County Board Of Supervisors' Protocol

- The Albemarle County Board of Supervisors holds two public meetings each month.
- A nominal two to three minute talk time is available to the public for *“Items not on the Agenda.”*
- I decided to show up twice a month, indefinitely, and engage in a “death of a thousand cuts” presentation process.

# Effective Rules Of Engagement

- You are now an activist
- You must do your homework
- You must be factual and polite
- You must do focused “sound bite” presentations
- You must not become discouraged
- A sense of humor helps

# The Process

- Realize that no one from the public had previously challenged the environmental activist input to these elected officials when existing regulations were formulated
- Use Power Point presentations; “sound bite science” is not nuanced science
- Use original source data to refute false claims
- Get other supporters to speak at these public BOS meetings



# The Message

- Public policy made on the basis of incorrect or incomplete climate science is bad public policy
- Climate science is *not* settled science
- County/City staff may be a source of environmental activist group-think

# Needed...A Wider Audience

- Letters to the editor...local and other press
- Interview on local PBS radio
- Support of local talk radio host “*The Schilling Show*” with one hour each month
- Support of Jefferson Area Tea Party
- Invited speaker to local social organizations

# Initial Reaction From One BOS Member *“Surely Your Joking”*

- What U.N...I don't see any U.N. in County documents
- A Tea Party conspiracy
- Tea Party infiltration into County Government
- There is a “climate change” consensus
- Climate skeptics are climate change deniers
- ICLEI membership costs only \$1200 per year

Some BOS Presentation Slides...

...a small sampling from over the past year

Good News

VS.

Bad News (Bears)

*Skepticism is the first step to Truth* – D. Diderot

Albemarle County BOS

May 2, 2012

presentation

by

Charles Battig, MD

VA-Scientists and Engineers for Energy and  
Environment

# There Is Hope: *ICLEI* “Drop Outs” Growing

- Spartanburg, SC
- Georgetown, TX
- Carver, MA
- Montgomery County, PA
- Edmond, OK
- **Carroll County, MD**
- Norman, OK
- Monmouth County, NJ
- Passaic County, NJ
- Somerset County, NJ
- Westchester County, NY
- Las Cruces, NM
- Garland ,TX
- College Station, TX
- Irving, TX
- James City County, VA
- Amador County, CA
- Temecula, CA
- Vista, CA
- Pinellas, FL
- Oklahoma City, OK
- **Albemarle County, VA**
- Lexington, VA
- Abingdon, VA
- Plantation, FL
- Sarasota County, FL
- Clallam County, WA
- Sequim, WA
- Waltham, MA
- Washougal, WA

# The U.N.'s *Intergovernmental Panel On Climate Change (IPCC)* (The Gold Standard Of Environmentalists' Policy), Speaks:

*“We redistribute de facto the world’s wealth by climate policy...One has to free oneself from the illusion that international climate policy is environmental policy. This has almost nothing to do with environmental policy anymore”\**

\*IPCC lead author and chairman of WG 3, Dr. Ottmar Eden-Hofer , November 13, 2010 interview



# Dr. James Lovelock: “We were supposed to be halfway toward a frying world now”

- **Flashback 2007:**  
Lovelock Predicts Global Warming Doom:  
‘Billions of us will die; few breeding pairs of people that survive will be in Arctic’
- **MSNBC April 23, 2012:**  
‘Gaia’ scientist James Lovelock reverses himself: I was ‘alarmist’ about climate change & so was Gore! **‘The problem is we don’t know what the climate is doing. We thought we knew 20 years ago’**

*The Globe and Mail* (Canada) April 4, 2012

**“Healthy polar bear count confounds doomsayers”**



“the bear population is not in crisis as people believed,” said Drikus Gissing, Nunavut’s director of wildlife management. “There is no doom and gloom.”

...media in southern Canada has led people to believe polar bears are endangered. “They are not.” He added that there are about 15,000 polar bears across Canada’s Arctic. “That’s likely the highest [population level] there has ever been.”

“ There are about 25,000 polar bears in the north circumpolar region, of which about 15,000 are in the Canadian High Arctic.”

Peter Kareiva (chief scientist and vice president) *Nature Conservancy* writes

***Conservation in the Anthropocene:*** (Breakthrough Journal No.2, Fall 2011)

“Kaveira argues that environmentalists are living in the past, and are effectively lying to their constituents about the state of nature, producing a doom-and-gloom view to sustain their relevance, at the expense of any sort of real progress”

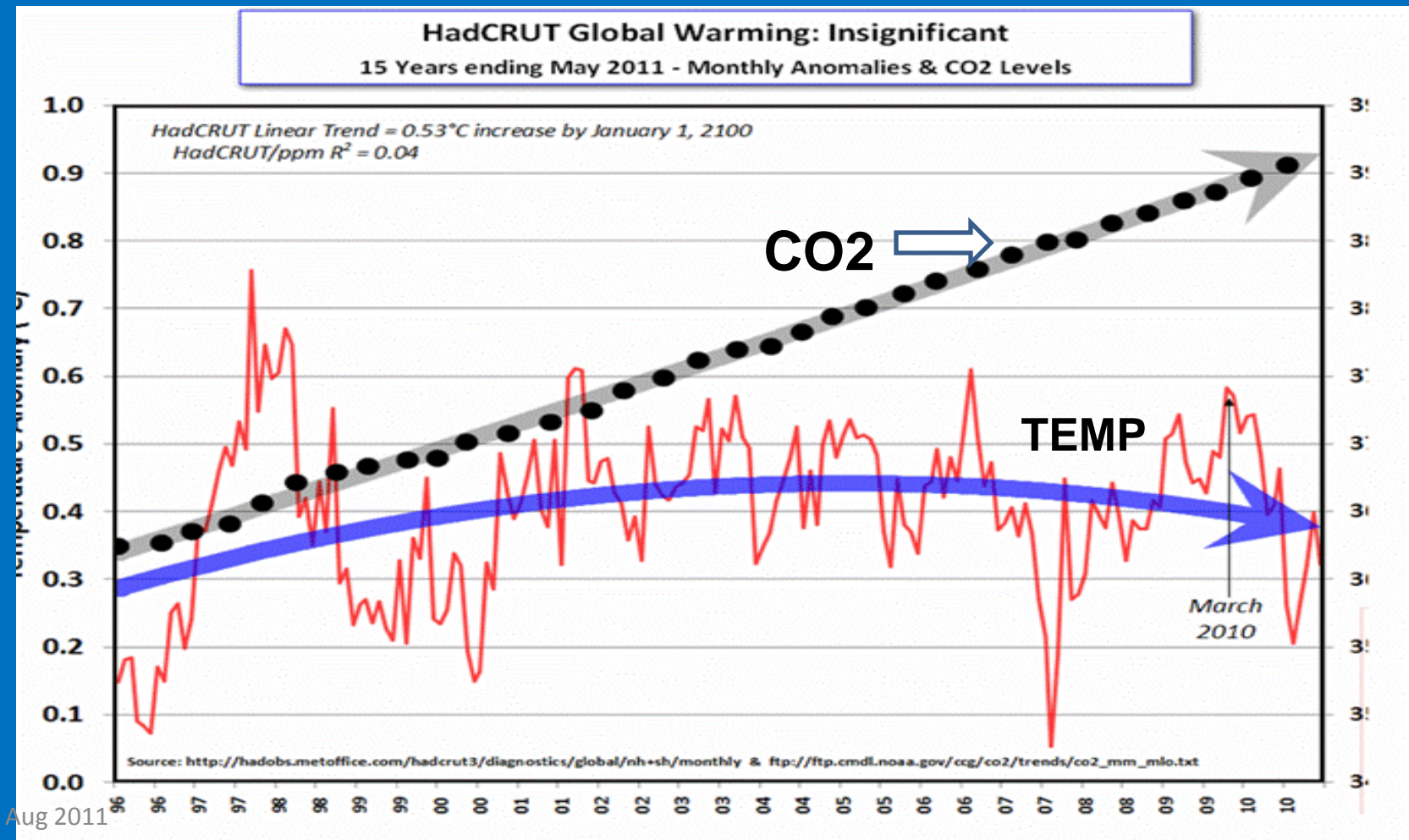
“We love the horror story,” Kareiva said “We just love it. The environmental movement has loved it. That, I think, is ... [a] strategy failure. **And it’s actually not supported by science.**”\*

\* *Resourceful Earth*: Brian McGraw review April 23, 2012

# Past 15 Years: CO2 Up; Global Temperatures Down

## Why The Panic Over Emissions?

### *Does Increased CO2 “Cause” Global Cooling?*



# *“Planet Under Pressure”*

## International Conference, April 2012, London

Yale University professor Karen Seto told MSNBC:  
*“We certainly don’t want them (humans) strolling  
about the entire countryside. We want them to  
save land for nature by living closely [together]”*

**...Sounds in keeping with the Albemarle County  
comprehensive plan and the TJPDC sustainability  
accords**

# As Carbon Dioxide Levels Have Risen Evidence-Based Science Confirms...

- Global temperatures in 2012 are at the satellite era mean, with 12 plus years of no increase, and with several recent years of decrease
- Sea ice area is at the satellite-era mean
- Satellite data show that average sea level has not risen for several years, and that the rate-of-rise is presently lower than the historical average
- Seven years since a major hurricane strike on the US – the longest period on record

# Just A Guide?; You Decide

## Growing Smart<sup>SM</sup> Legislative Guidebook

*Model Statutes for Planning and the  
Management of Change*

Stuart Meck, FAICP  
General Editor

2002 Edition  
January 2002

Growing Smart<sup>SM</sup> is a program of the  
American Planning Association





# APA Climate Change Handbook

**American Planning Association**  
**POLICY GUIDE ON PLANNING &  
CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**Adopted April 27, 2008**  
**Updated April 11, 2011**

# For Some Planners It Is More Than Just About Parking Places And Park Space

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## Statement of Principles

The Planners Network is an association of professionals, activists, academics, and students involved in physical, social, economic, and environmental planning in urban and rural areas, who promote fundamental change in our political and economic systems.

We believe that planning should be a tool for allocating resources and developing the environment to eliminate the great inequalities of wealth and power in our society, rather than to maintain and justify the status quo. We are committed to opposing racial, economic, and environmental injustice and discrimination by gender and sexual orientation. We believe that planning should be used to assure adequate food, clothing, housing, medical care, jobs, safe working conditions, and a healthful environment. We advocate public responsibility for meeting these needs, because the private market has proven incapable of doing so.

We seek to be an effective political and social force, working with other progressive organizations to inform public opinion and public policy and to provide assistance to those seeking to understand, control, and change the forces which affect their lives.



# The First Success

- June 8, 2011: The Albemarle County BOS votes four to two to defund ICLEI after hours of tumultuous public comment
- Why did the BOS vote to defund and withstand a packed auditorium of environmental activists, UVA students, and liberal politicians booing and catcalling Tea Party members speaking to defund ICLEI?
- Answer: *Quote...We gave logical and factual reasons; the opposition booed and gave catcalls*

# The Next Success

- September 7, 2011: The BOS vote four to two to rescind their 2007 *“Cool Counties”* resolution
- Why?
- Answer: The majority felt that Albemarle County regulations should originate in Albemarle County, and not be based on outside advocacy organizations

# Conclusions

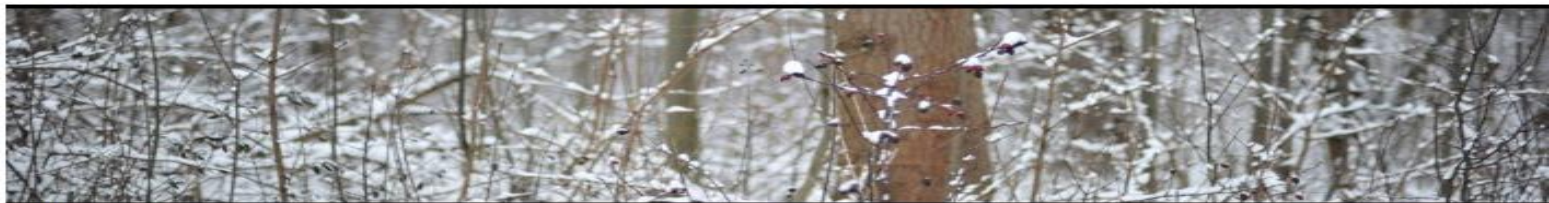
- Local political engagement is key to having scientific information from meetings such as this one make a direct and effective local impact
- Presenting the missing side of scientific debate on climate issues to the local public and politicians can directly influence local, state, and Federal policy and elections
- Many local politicians have never been openly challenged on these issues
- This is a continuing process...

# My On-Line Library

www.climateis.wordpress.com

## Climate Reality

*A considered view of climate issues*



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### Article Published in American Thinker, May 6 2012

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[American Thinker- The Death of Privacy By Bits and Bytes C. Battig May 6 2012](#)

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