

1 June 2022

11939 Manchester #403
St. Louis, MO 63131
patkelly4senate@gmail.com
www.kelly4senate.net
314-619-9441

An Open Letter to:

All Candidates in 2022 Democratic Primary for U.S. Senate
All Staff Members with Pictures on Missouri Democratic Party Website
Chiefs of Staff for Mayors of St. Louis, Kansas City, and Columbia

**SUMMARY OF GLOBAL WARMING POSITIONS & CAMPAIGN
PLANNED BY PAT KELLY**

Dear Folks:

As described in a separate cover letter, I decided to join the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate, partly to help elect a Democratic Senator from Missouri, and partly in an effort to try to get the Democratic Party, across the entire nation, to approach the issue of global warming in different ways than what I've been seeing, so far. As far as I can tell, the basic Democratic posture is, "Global warming isn't polling well, and we don't want to sound like we're advocating bigger and bigger government, so we're pretty much going to remain silent, on that issue."

I think there is a better approach, which may be able to turn a lot of things around, and this letter is the first part of an effort to let each of you know what I plan to do, and why, so that you can take it into account, in your own campaign. More detailed information is in my website, at www.kelly4senate.net.

Briefly, my approach has the following main components:

1. Despite all the scientific expertise and dedicated advocates, we have failed to get any realistic and serious action, to help slow down global warming and sea level rise, for the past 30-40 years, largely because the way that scientists communicate, enables politicians to distort and misrepresent things. As just one example, scientists do not and will not claim to have "proven" that something will occur, *before* it has occurred. Even something as totally predictable and obvious as, "The sun will rise in the east, tomorrow morning" cannot be PROVEN; it can only be PREDICTED, until it has actually occurred. There is more on that

mis-alignment in how crucial terms are used, in my website. The bottom line is that politicians seize on those scientifically modest terms, and say, “Why should we do this hugely expensive such-and-such, when the scientists have not even proven that global warming is going to happen?”

2. To try to overcome that problem, and turn the political realm in a different direction, I am going to be proposing that anyone and everyone who cares about the earth, and the environment, should begin confronting every candidate for either chamber of Congress, with a set of clear, provable, demonstrable facts.

The goal is to NOT tell people, “We MUST commit – NOW!! -- to doing hyper-expensive things!” Instead, the strategy I’m advocating can be summarized as:

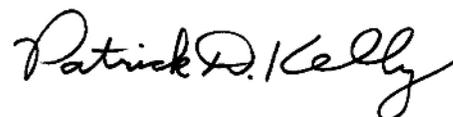
“We need to spend THIS election cycle – in 2022 – reaching agreements on what the FACTS actually are. And, we need to begin electing, to Congress, people who are smart enough to actually understand both the facts, and the warnings which those facts are screaming at us. And who also will have enough courage, and integrity, to actually face up to those facts, honestly and squarely, if they get into office.”

3. Along those lines – as both (i) a scientist/engineer who can understand complicated technical stuff, and (ii) a patent attorney who has at least some level of skill in writing about complicated technical things, in ways that non-experts can understand – I’ve compiled a set of 9 specific facts. None of them are beyond the reach of anyone, if they are willing to simply try to understand them. When put together, all 9 of those facts create a pretty damning and frightening picture of what is happening, to this planet, and of all the horrible things that are going to happen, in the coming decades.

The rest of the pages attached to this letter contain:

- (1) a condensed and abbreviated summary of those 9 facts;
- (2) a frankly gruesome prediction about what is going to happen to the state of Florida, not in 80-100 years, but in 20-30 years. That prediction is part of a strategic effort to goad people on both sides of the debate to begin paying more attention to what is happening to Florida, and to begin asking experts, “Is this stuff for real? Could these predictions really, actually happen?” And, when they do, the experts will say, “They not only CAN, they WILL happen. The only real question is, ‘How long it will take, before Florida reaches the stage where millions of refugees from there will begin streaming north, forced to try to find new homes, on higher ground?’”
- (3) a set of topics which I (and, I hope, quite a few other Democrats) will begin pleading with Congress, to put on the table, for open discussion by experts, at formal hearings, BEFORE THE 2022 ELECTION.

So . . . if any of you are interested in getting better prepared to directly address global warming, as part of your campaign between now and primary day, I am willing to cooperate, and I encourage you to visit my website.



THIS LISTING OF 9 FACTS IS A CONDENSED AND ABRIDGED VERSION OF THE CORRESPONDING WEB PAGES IN kelly4senate.net

1. WHY DO PARKED CARS HEAT UP INSIDE, IF LEFT SITTING IN THE SUN WITH ALL THE WINDOWS ROLLED UP?

Every candidate for Congress should be asked, “Since people in the audience want to know how much you actually know, about global warming, would you please explain to the audience – in your own words – why the air *INSIDE* a parked car will get so much hotter than the *OUTSIDE* air, if the car sits in the sun, on a summer day, with all the windows rolled up?”

The reason *WHY* arises from the following facts:

(1) Since the windshield and window glass in a car is clear, visible light enters the car interior, through that glass. It hits and heats the dashboard, seat, and other opaque surfaces.

(2) When those surfaces get hot, they begin sending out *INFRA-RED* radiation, to try to stay balanced, since those wavelengths (longer than visible light) carry heat energy.

(3) However, *INFRA-RED* waves cannot get back out through the same windshield and windows that let in the visible light, because the type of glass used in cars will block, and reflect off, those wavelengths.

(4) Therefore, the reflected *INFRA-RED* waves simply go back into the car, and hit – *AND HEAT UP* – whatever surfaces they happen to hit, on that “second pass”. If it helps, think of them as analogous to “angry heat bugs”, which emit more heat when they flap their wings, and which flap their wings even harder and faster, when they get hot, and angry. If trapped inside a car, they soon make things even worse.

(5) What is happening to the earth involves the exact same steps. Visible light reaches the earth’s surfaces, and heats up those surfaces; when they get hot, they begin sending out infra-red radiation, to try to stay in balance. Before about 1800, those infra-red rays went out into deep space, and carried their energy away from the planet, harmlessly. But today, those same infra-red rays are now being trapped, and reflected back down to earth for a “second pass”, which makes things even hotter. Why? Because they cannot pass through air with too much carbon dioxide in it – which is what the Earth is suffering from, because humans are burning huge quantities of fossil fuels.

2. SINCE 1979, WHEN SATELLITE MEASUREMENTS BEGAN, THE ARCTIC REGION HAS LOST ITS BRIGHT AND REFLECTIVE SNOW AND ICE COVER, OVER AN AREA 125 TIMES THE SIZE OF NEW JERSEY.

Satellite images of the arctic with enough accuracy to enable good comparisons date back to 1979. Since then, the bright and reflective snow and ice cover – which protected the Arctic Ocean and the northern regions of Canada and Russia by reflecting sunlight energy back out into space – has completely and totally disappeared, leaving much darker ocean and

land surfaces fully exposed, over an area 125 times the size of the entire state of New Jersey.

Furthermore, the snow and ice cover in the arctic used to be 6 feet 7 inches thick, on average. Now, the sad remnants average only 3 feet thick, and are much weaker, more porous, and less dense. That's like trading in tall, powerful, muscular basketball players – who, in days past, protected things and maintained order – for frail, elderly, hobbled dwarfs who suffer from severe osteoporosis, and who are dying off, in large numbers, every year.

3. NAKED OCEAN AND LAND SURFACES ABSORB MUCH MORE HEAT THAN A BRIGHT & REFLECTIVE SNOW AND ICE COVER. THAT CREATES A “SELF-ACCELERATING” OR “RUNAWAY” (OR “VICIOUS CIRCLE”) CONDITION.

The number, “125 times the size of New Jersey”, is deeply troubling, because a snow and ice cover absorbs only about 10-15% of the sunlight energy that hits it. By contrast, land surfaces absorb about 70-80% of the energy in sunlight. Water surfaces absorb nearly all (94%) of the sun's energy, which is great for helping marine life grow, but terrible when it means that the now-naked Arctic Ocean is absorbing nearly ALL of the heat energy in the sunlight which hits it. That has created a “runaway” condition (also called a ‘self-accelerating’ condition, a “vicious circle”, or various other terms). It means that the arctic snow and ice cover has entered a “death spiral”, which is speeding up the loss and destruction of any remaining snow and ice, *even faster than before*. As more snow and ice cover is lost, any remaining snow and ice cover will melt, even faster than that, until it is all – every bit of it – completely gone.

4. THAWING TUNDRA AND PERMAFROST ARE RELEASING GIGA-TONS OF METHANE GAS, WHICH IS 25x WORSE THAN CO₂, ON A WEIGHT BASIS.

As huge land areas in the far north that we call “tundra” or “permafrost” are thawing and melting – for the first time in hundreds of thousands of years – they are releasing massive quantities of the organic gas called methane (formula CH₄). The problem is, every pound (or ton, or any other unit of weight) of methane gas, will do about 25x as much damage as the same weight of carbon dioxide would do, in trapping (and reflecting, back to earth) the heat-carrying infra-red radiation which the earth has been using, for millions of years, to stay at relatively stable temperatures (except during those few times when an Ice Age was either beginning, or ending). So, the release of methane, by thawing tundra or permafrost, has created another runaway, self-accelerating, vicious circle condition. The faster it thaws, the faster it will release more methane, and that additional methane will then cause any remaining tundra or permafrost to melt even faster, thereby releasing even more methane, even faster.

5. GREENLAND HAS ALREADY LOST 5.5 TRILLION TONS OF ICE, SINCE 1970.

In a single day, in August 2021, multiple teams of scientists with numerous sensors – both manned, and remote, all around Greenland – did their best to measure how much of the Greenland ice sheet melted on that one day, and ran off into the surrounding ocean waters, in the form of “melt rivers” which simply did not exist, on Greenland, in 1970.

Their measurements indicated Greenland lost nearly 20 billion tons of ice, from its ice sheet, on that one single day.

And, the rocks which are being exposed, as the Greenland ice melts, are the oldest ever found on this planet. They are almost all granite, or basalt, and they are exceptionally dark. That means, they will begin absorbing even more heat energy, as soon as they are exposed, when the ice above them melts away and runs off into the ocean. And that creates yet another runaway, self-accelerating, vicious circle condition.

6. WORLDWIDE SEA LEVELS ROSE 8 INCHES, BETWEEN 1920 AND 2020, LEADING TO DISASTERS SUCH AS HURRICANES KATRINA, SANDY, IVAN, ETC. THEY ARE NOW PROJECTED TO RISE ANOTHER 14 INCHES, IN JUST THE NEXT 40 YEARS – WHICH MEANS, THEY ARE RISING NEARLY 4.5 TIMES FASTER, NOW, THAN DURING THE PAST CENTURY.

The sources, for those numbers? The U.S. Navy, which knows the exact historical numbers, and which has quietly agreed without objection to the future projections.

Sea levels in harbors (whether in calm conditions, or during storms) are absolutely crucial to naval operations and safety, and directly endanger, not just personnel, but also things like the pipes and conduits that carry diesel fuel, electricity, and drinking water to ships in any harbor. So, the Navy can be trusted and relied upon, for any sea level data it releases, or agrees with. The problem is, it tends to downplay and minimize such disclosures, and it buries the hard numbers, deep inside large piles of verbiage and clutter.

Why? To avoid offending or confronting members of Congress. *THEY* control the Navy’s budget, and the ones on the military oversight and budget committees do *NOT* want the public to read about or know about hard and undeniable data which clearly show that global warming and sea level rise are already major crises, and are growing rapidly worse.

7. “KING TIDES” – WHICH HAPPEN REGULARLY & PREDICTABLY, EVERY YEAR – HAVE ALREADY RISEN TO LEVELS WHERE THE SALT WATER IS ANKLE DEEP, IN STREETS IN NEARLY EVERY CITY ALONG OUR ATLANTIC COAST.

The pages in the website, kelly4senate.net, explain what “king tides” are, why they occur several times every year, and why they rise higher on eastern coasts, than on other coasts. If you want more info on this subject, it’s in that website.

8. BUILDING AND ZONING LAWS ALONG COASTLINES ARE BEING

COMPLETELY REWRITTEN, AS COASTAL COMMUNITIES REALIZE THAT THEY SHOULD NO LONGER EVEN TRY TO PROTECT COASTAL BUILDINGS, BY USING DIKES, LEVEES, AND PUMPING SYSTEMS. INSTEAD, THE NEW LAWS SAY, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE BOTTOM FLOOR IN ANY NEW NEAR-COASTAL BUILDING CANNOT BE INHABITED, AND MUST FREELY ALLOW FLOOD WATER TO FLOW IN AND THEN DRAIN OUT ON ITS OWN, WITHOUT REQUIRING ANY PUMPING.

For more information, see the website.

9. FOR A NUMBER OF VERY GOOD REASONS, COASTLINES ARE MUCH MORE DENSELY POPULATED THAN “INLAND” AREAS. ALTHOUGH COASTLINES MAKE UP ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF THE WORLD’S LAND AREA, ALMOST 40% OF THE WORLD POPULATION – NEARLY 3 BILLION PEOPLE – LIVE IN “COASTAL COMMUNITIES”.

The statements above are hard facts. Although what follows are predictions, these are so clear, logical, and apparently inevitable, that any “burden of persuasion” should be placed on anyone who wishes to challenge or try to cast doubt on any of them.

AS THE OCEANS CONTINUE TO RISE, COASTAL DWELLERS WILL BE FORCED TO ABANDON THEIR HOMES AND COMMUNITIES, AND TRY TO MOVE TO HIGHER GROUND. NEARLY ALL OF THEM WILL BE BROKE, HUNGRY, ANGRY, BITTER, AND DESPERATE. THEY WILL BE MET BY ARMED RESISTANCE, BY PEOPLE ALREADY LIVING INLAND, WHO (BY THEN) WILL REALIZE THAT “THE INLAND AREAS” SIMPLY CANNOT SUSTAIN, SUPPORT, AND PROVIDE ENOUGH FOOD AND SHELTER FOR ADDITIONAL *BILLIONS* OF PEOPLE, IN ADDITION TO THOSE ALREADY LIVING THERE. THE LEVELS OF DESPERATION WILL KEEP GETTING WORSE, AS WEATHER-RELATED DISASTERS AND CRISES ALSO KEEP GETTING WORSE; AND, NUMEROUS OUTRIGHT WARS WILL BEGIN.

The top military planners and strategists already know that all of the above is true. However, rather than describing it in language that might startle, alarm, or offend the congressmen who control the military budgets, they couch it in phrases such as, “*Global warming is likely to become a `catalyst for conflict`.*” Instead of becoming a “catalyst for conflict”, global warming is a “recipe for disaster”.

PREDICTION #1: The Future of Florida

Based on my work, studies, and level of understanding as an environmental scientist and engineer, I hereby predict that, within less than 35 years (with 2022 as the first of those 35 years), the coastal regions of Florida will be rendered more than 90% unlivable, by sea level rise. Property values along the Florida coast – which amount to trillions of dollars in 2022 values – will drop by somewhere in the range of 95-98%, within less than 35 years (probably within less than 30 years, or even just 20 years), as people are forced to witness and reckon with the unmistakable and unstoppable onslaught, once the damage truly begins and then accelerates. Within 40 years, nearly all homes and apartments along the Atlantic coast of Florida will have to be abandoned (Florida's Gulf coast likely will follow, within about 10 years or less, after that); and, at least 10 million people (out of a current population of about 22 million) will be forced into 'refugee' status, driven northward and/or inland, having no significant savings or assets beyond a car (or possibly two), and whatever they are able to carry in that car (or two). The only people who will remain behind will be radical outliers, outlaws, and 'frontiersmen' who choose to live lifestyles that are completely and totally different from 'normal' Americans. Rather than paying rent or taxes, the people who remain in Florida, or who move to Florida willingly, will defy any and all outside authorities, and will challenge anyone to come and take any rent or tax money from them, if they think they can. Violent gangs will form, as a substitute for severely broken (or totally abandoned) government and law enforcement services, and their members will claim to be pioneers who are performing valuable services for America, and for all countries, by figuring out, and showing everyone else, how some type of semi-functional remnant society can be organized, and managed, in the areas that previously were coastlines. In addition, at some point in the process, people will begin bombing and destroying bridges or other "choke-points" on the major north-south highways (or, they will attack and disable trucks and cars on those highways, to create barriers to travel without damaging the roads themselves), thereby rendering those highways unable to carry more refugees. This might be done by violent gangs that intend to remain in Florida, in order to give them more valuable items they can plunder and steal; or, it might be done by people who do not want their states, north of Florida, to have to absorb – and begin taking care of, and begin paying the huge costs of taking care of – millions of broke, hungry, unwanted, and very, very angry and embittered refugees from Florida.

Plea for Congressional Hearings on Global Warming

>> *DURING 2022 !!!* <<

In addition to trying to help voters get ready to ask clear, informative, difficult-to-sidestep questions of candidates in races they will be voting on, I would plead with anyone who cares about global warming to begin calling for Congressional hearings about it, **THIS YEAR, DURING THIS ELECTION CYCLE.**

Why the urgency? Why *THIS YEAR*?

Answer #1: because the problems and threats are dire, urgent, and time-dependent.

Answer #2: so that voters will better understand the relevant facts, information, and predictions, when they decide who to vote for, in November.

Answer #3: most polls say that Democrats are likely to lose their majorities in both houses of Congress, in the 2022 elections. If that happens, they will lose the ability to call hearings, and to control what will be discussed at any such hearings. They can eliminate that risk, and force some direly-needed information to be placed squarely on the table, face-up, by simply scheduling hearings before the election.

The list below contains my suggestions, for topics that should be raised during the first batch of any such hearings.

The next page, in this website, contains several additional potential topics, but those get into issues such as justice, fairness, and accountability, which can be argued about forever, without ever accomplishing anything worthwhile. As such, they need to be actively and firmly set off to one side, so that they cannot become the things that the worst wrong-doers will seize upon, to further try to cloud and confuse the issues and questions of what needs to be done, now. They are included herein, because justice, fairness, and accountability are indeed supporting pillars of any decent and civilized society, and those on the wrong, parasitic, predatory, destructive side should be encouraged to ponder – starting now – how they, and their legacies, memories, properties, and offspring, are going to be treated, not by those in power now, but by either: (i) those who will be in power 20, 40, and 60 years from now, if indeed there are any such people; or, (ii) angry and violent mobs, who will indeed be seeking justice, but in forms that will focus heavily on revenge, rather than fairness.

QUESTION SET #1:

What are the official positions of the highest-level officers and top strategic planners in THE UNITED STATES NAVY, on sea level rise – including past numbers, current numbers, and projections into the future (with info on levels of confidence)? In specific:

(A) Is it true that, when all the world's oceans are taken into account, worldwide ocean levels rose by ***an average of 8 inches, during the 100 year span***, between 1917, and 2017? (As a brief explanation of that time span, American naval bases began to be rebuilt in 1917, to get ready for World War I, and to help the Navy transition away from coal-powered steam engines, to diesel engines, and by 1917, the technology had developed to a point where experts could make very accurate measurements).

(B) Is it true that the U.S. Navy also expects average worldwide ocean levels to rise by ***another 14 inches, in JUST THE NEXT FORTY YEARS?*** And, if so, ***WHY*** is the Navy expecting ***THAT*** to happen?

(C) Who, in Congress, has the U.S. Navy been telling these numbers, and these warnings, to, over the past 10 or 20 years? Did ANY of those Congressmen or Senators indicate an actual understanding and grasp of those numbers, and what they mean? And, which members of Congress seemed to have the BEST understanding and grasp of the facts, problems, and threats lurking in those numbers?

QUESTION SET #2 (to be asked of military experts, in this area):

2A. Is it true that essentially ALL of the top planners, strategic analysts, and computer modelers, throughout ALL branches of the U.S. military, have reached a point where they now ALL believe, anticipate, expect, and predict, that climate change will become the single largest and most important factor, in America's international relations, and in triggering outright wars at dozens of locations, all around the globe? And, if it is not true that ALL of them agree with that statement, what is your best estimate of the percentages that do?

2B. Do they believe that the border with Mexico needs to be fortified to a point where it can be defended – by military actions, which will need to include 'shoot to kill' orders – in order to prevent hundreds of thousands (or even millions) of "heat refugees" from trying to move north, from Mexico and Central America, to escape from temperatures so high that they will be "rapidly lethal" to millions of people over 50 years old, in their countries? And, in what year did each branch of the military first begin to create computer models, and war-game scenarios, which began to weave in those types of predictions, as elements which had, say, a 30%, or 40%, or higher level of probability?

2C. What are your assessments of books that have been published with "climate changes will lead to wars" warnings, such as *Climate Wars: The Fight for Survival as the World Overheats* (G. Dyer, 2010), and *Climate Wars: What People Will Be Killed For in the 21st Century* (H. Welzer, 2015)? Which book do you believe is the single best and most informative book on this subject, for citizens and voters who are actively concerned, but who are not experts in the underlying studies, facts, and factors?

QUESTION SET #3:

What do the **Chief OPERATING Officers (COO's)** of any Fortune 500 companies which have large and important outdoor operations say, and predict, about what they and their companies are thinking and doing, to get ready for global warming and climate change? And, ask the same question of the COO's of the 50 largest home and business insurers. Do ANY of those Chief OPERATING Officers – as in, even a single one? – simply dismiss and ignore the warnings from scientists, about changes in climate or sea levels, because they think it's all a hoax, as President Trump declared when he was in office? How many of those COOs still say that they think Trump was right, on that subject, now that Trump is no longer in office, and cannot direct the Executive Branch of the federal government to threaten or pressure their companies to remain silent, and passive, on that issue? How many are NOW willing to openly and publicly state (regardless of what they might have said while Trump was still in power) that they NOW think that Trump was badly wrong, badly misinformed, and badly misguided, on that subject? And, what do the COO's of home and business insurance companies predict is likely to happen, over the coming 10 years, to insurance premiums on buildings located in "coastal communities", as that term has come to be used?

QUESTION SET #4:

What do genuine and serious experts, in both civilian and military positions, say and predict about "*The Future of Florida*"? What is their best assessment, as of now, of what is most likely to happen between now and 2100, and of the time frames which seem possible, and probable, for escalating damage caused by combinations of sea-level rise, and sinkholes? Do they foresee millions of refugees being forced to flee northward, from Florida, needing entirely new homes on higher ground? Do they believe that, between now and 2100, America will have to watch as an entire state becomes so badly battered, submerged, and destabilized that it no longer will be able to support "normal" government and civil society, with police and fire departments, utility companies which can provide public services, etc.?

QUESTION SET #5:

What are the best, most useful, most helpful things that America can begin doing, now, to prepare for the onslaught?

As just one example, should we create *some sort of "Coastal Transition Financial Agency"*, to try to help coastal residents not be simply left broke and penniless, when storm surges and waves begin tearing down their houses? Or, should an agency such as that be empowered to provide stopgap measures, as insurance companies decide to abandon, en masse, the coastal regions? Should we consider, for example, a clear and understood transition period lasting several years, where yearly insurance premiums for houses and other buildings will stop, and that money will be placed, instead, into some type of 'cushion-the-blow' fund? Are there things like building codes and zoning ordinances which, if adopted and used, might be able to help places along the coast extend their 'useful life' by at least a few years?

And, should Congress consider creating "*utility companies for rebuilding*", similar to other types of utility companies which provide things like electric power, natural gas, drinking water, and sewage removal. For those have never studied the structure of utility companies, or who might benefit from a brief "refresher" summary, the laws which control utility companies evolved in ways

which put them at controlled mid-points, to guard the public against the risks of abuse that can arise from pure capitalism at one end of the spectrum, and outright socialism at the other end. They are privately owned, and profitable, and they issue dividends to their investors; however, the rates they are allowed to charge, and major investments they wish to make, must be approved by rate-setting commissions, which were created by state laws and which are designed to protect the public. They offer excellent examples of the pragmatic, problem-solving, deal-making, willing to compromise, balance-seeking approach to governing, which did so much to make America stable, prosperous, and powerful, for decades. That type of “bargain, negotiate, find compromises and balance-points, and find approaches and solutions that can actually work” approach has been severely damaged, and has been pushed so far away from the playing field, it is no longer even on the sidelines; instead, the “culture warriors” who can get re-elected by keeping their base of voters angry and unhappy, have forcibly shoved the “bargain, negotiate, and find workable compromises” approach out to where it is now beyond and behind the bleacher seats, where it can't even be seen from the playing field, and where any requests and pleas for reason and moderation are distant enough, and muted enough, to be safely ignored by those who only want to focus on getting re-elected. However, citizens and voters can at least hope that the massive disasters coming at us, due to global warming and climate change, might force Congress to shift back into a problem-solving mode, rather than its current "attack, criticize, refuse to compromise, and hammer any and all hot buttons, as hard as possible, and as often as possible" mode.

So, Question #5, above, can be rephrased as follows: what would experts in finance, engineering, and ‘financial engineering’ recommend, as the best ways for America to at least try to begin preparing for an unending and relentless series of climate-related disasters?

QUESTION SET #6:

Should America create some type of "public service period" which would either (i) require, or, (ii) enable and incentivize, people who have never spent any time in some sort of “public service”, to spend a year or so, working on projects that would serve the public good . . . such as, for example, helping clean up and rebuild towns and villages that have been devastated by flooding, fires, tornadoes, or hurricanes?

To help put that question into better focus, below are some pictures of neighborhoods that were devastated, in recent years, by tornadoes, fires, and hurricanes. And, here is a crucial, critical, absolutely essential point, about tornadoes, fires, and hurricanes: ***ALL of those types of disasters will continue to grow stronger, more severe, and more dangerous and deadly, as the atmosphere and oceans all continue to grow warmer, year after year.***

No one really knows, and no one can reliably-and-precisely guess or predict, just how much worse these types of warming-driven disasters will get, and how fast the rates of acceleration and increase will be, between now and any arbitrary cut-off year, such as, ‘Over the next 50 years’, or, ‘Between now and 2100’.

Nevertheless, ***EVERY serious climate scientist KNOWS*** that each and all of those three types of disasters – tornadoes, fires, and hurricanes – are firmly, totally, squarely, and undeniably in a category which can be briefly summarized as, “As our climate and oceans continue to get warmer and

warmer, *these types of disasters will not only get worse and worse, they also will become more and more frequent.*”

The simple fact is that both hurricanes, and tornadoes, convert heat energy, into mechanical energy. Therefore, as more and more heat energy continues to be piled up, endlessly higher and higher, in the clouds, water, humidity, and air that ‘feed and fuel’ either a hurricane or tornado, then that hurricane or tornado will have more energy that it must somehow “throw off, and turn into mechanical energy.” Similarly, does any serious person doubt, or dispute, that if the atmosphere gets hotter and hotter, it will tend to breed, promote, and contribute to more fires, and larger fires?

And so, the pictures below need to be seen, not as ‘terrible disasters’, but as ‘merely the entryway, to a series of even larger, worse, and even more terrible, destructive, and horrific disasters than these’.

Please try to keep a basic, straight-forward scientific truth, principle, and entirely reliable, knowable, and inevitable prediction in mind, as you ponder the levels of damage that are already being caused, by these types of disasters. The scientific truth – the entirely knowable and reliable prediction – can be stated as follows: *“These types of disasters will only get worse, and then worse, and then even worse than that, starting now, and going into the future.”*

That is a basic, baseline, starting-point realization, insight, and guiding principle. And now, here is where the “disaster levels” already stand, before they begin getting even worse:

NOTE – SIX PICTURES, WITH CAPTIONS, ARE AVAILABLE AT:

<https://www.kelly4senate.net/climate-hearings-2022>

In complete seriousness: "What WILL America do, and what CAN America do, to try to get ready to rebuild towns, cities, and neighborhoods which have been damaged as badly as the neighborhoods shown in the pictures above?"

That is an absolutely (and even deadly) serious question. Every voter – and every member of Congress – who has enough brains and courage to actually THINK, should try to answer THAT question, before turning and dancing away from hard facts and reality, and grabbing onto some belief or position that seems to offer more comfort and reassurance, in the short term.

One proposal, which I am hereby putting on the table, face-up, can be summarized in 3 or 4 bullet-points:

1. We need to begin seriously considering some type of “Public Service Corps”, which can provide hundreds of thousands and possibly millions of people, to help do the repair and rebuilding work that will become necessary, here in America, as disasters such as major fires, severe hurricanes, and monster tornadoes become both more frequent, and more severe, due to global warming.

2. It will take YEARS to actually develop, organize, plan, and create any sort of large-scale program such as this, before it can get started, for real. ANYONE who chooses to support it – and,

anyone who chooses to oppose it – must simply yet fully recognize and accept that fact, and talk and behave accordingly. NO ONE should begin screaming and yelling things like, "We need to do this, NOW!!" THAT type of screaming and yelling can be, and will be, attacked, belittled, criticized, and dismissed by the powers-that-be, as ‘unreasoning hysteria’ and worse. So, we need to approach this subject, and discuss and debate it, more calmly, diligently, maturely, and professionally.

3. My own personal belief is that every American – regardless of age – who has NOT previously served in the military, should be “incentivized” to become involved, as a way of ‘pitching in’ and helping their fellow Americans, their communities, their states, and their society, form of government, and civilization. Clearly, different types of tasks will be involved, for people of different ages; and yet, even someone who is, for example, 70 years old, can show up at a community kitchen and help prepare and serve meals to people doing other public-service work, or can help monitor, contribute to, and improve the quality of work and care that are being performed at day-care centers.

I also want to make a clear and direct statement and commitment that I’m not just trying to foist off a bunch of work, onto other people. If this project gets started, I would be entirely willing to work in it, as a standard-level worker. Instead of resenting the idea of having to help other people, I’ll simply pass on an observation, by a wise physician, that one of the best and most effective ways to make oneself feel better, is by looking outward, reaching outward, and helping someone who needs help. Frankly, I suspect that many of the worst internet trolls and haters are people who are trying to fight off the unhappy nagging realization that they, themselves, have done depressingly little to ever help anyone who really needed it. Unhappy people tend to think, mistakenly, that if they can somehow offload and unload some of their unhappiness onto someone else, then they can make that other person carry it for them, and they’ll have a lighter load, with less weight. Life, happiness, and a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment really don’t work that way, but people need to actually reach and experience a point where they can experience, for themselves, how much better it feels to actually help people who need help, than to spend an entire lifetime trying to repeatedly push loads of bitterness, anger, frustration, and unhappiness onto the shoulders and heads of others.

A great deal more can, should, and will be said, about this, as the need for it becomes more and more pressing, then urgent, and then dire. My goal, in bringing it up now, is to try to help get it added to the mix, during discussions and debates over how America should try to deal with climate change, sooner, rather than later, so that we can start moving in a direction we will need to move in, sooner rather than later.

FACING UP TO REPUBLICANS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

In all matters *OTHER THAN global warming and sea level rise*, I will genuinely, sincerely, and honestly try to stay neutral between the two parties, and will try to help show BOTH parties how they can re-build some bridges between them, if their candidates and/or members in Congress truly want to help *ALL* American voters, and ALL citizens, and ALL taxpayers, on terms that the majority of voters themselves want (rather than the standard strategy of passing laws that no one outside of that party's 'base' actually wants, and then proclaiming that those laws are truly what is best, for all Americans).

HOWEVER . . . on the sole and single issue of global warming and sea level rise . . .

For anyone who actually understands how massive, destructive, and deadly the approaching disasters are going to become, it is impossible to stay neutral and balanced, between Democrats and Republicans. On that issue, the sad fact is that Republicans have a terrible, dreadful, shameful record of obstructing any and all efforts to even begin to face up to the horrible (and rapidly increasing) problems our entire nation will soon be facing. That record stretches back continuously, without even a single break, for about 40 years. Even worse, it still has not changed, to this day . . . which, sadly, makes it appear that most Republicans in Congress still have not learned anything at all, about global warming and climate change, during those 40 years, no matter how much the evidence has grown, multiplied, and continued to confirm the warnings (and carry out the predictions) from experts who truly wanted and tried to help.

This isn't saying that Democrats have been perfect, or that there have not been ANY Republicans who have taken responsible stands on this issue.

Nevertheless, if one looks at the history of what Republicans in Congress (as a group) have done, concerning climate change and sea level rise, that record stands solidly and undeniably at:

(i) a flat **ZERO**, in terms of good, helpful work; and,

(ii) an absolute 100%, in terms of determined and concerted efforts to **BLOCK** and **PREVENT** any actually **USEFUL** actions.

I offer that statement as an open public challenge. If *ANY* Republican believes it is unfair, then let that person (or group) simply issue a list of all the good things which, in their opinion, 'Republicans in Congress' have actually *DONE*, to help slow down global warming and sea level rise. A plain, straight-forward, factual list, please, which any voter can see and examine, and which experts can analyze, and respond to.

Unless and until that happens, an analogy might help people better understand what needs to be done, this year, in this election cycle, to begin moving in the right direction.

If you are driving a car through a dangerously hot desert, on a hot afternoon in August, and one of your tires goes flat, you need to fix that flat, as quickly as possible, and then get moving again. It doesn't matter whether your car might also need a tune-up, whether the windshield wipers should be replaced, or anything like that. You need to fix that flat tire, and then get moving again, toward safety, as your highest priority.

In the same way, anyone who cares about global warming – or about coastal property values – needs to focus on the pathological, reckless, and even horrifying refusal of Republicans, in Congress, to face up to the facts of what is actually happening to this planet. *THAT* is the broken part which is preventing our nation from being able to start doing what needs to be done. Instead of fussing about details, we need to focus on the broken part which absolutely must be fixed, before we can get moving. And, as of now, the broken part is an intransigent and unreasoning refusal by Congressional Republicans to face up to the facts of global warming, and to then begin doing what our nation, and our planet, urgently and even desperately need to have done.

When it comes to the massive and deadly threats that are heading toward us, fast and hard, because of global warming and sea-level rise, people should not try to pretend, somehow, that there is a valid, reasonable, and appropriate way to remain neutral and impartial, between the two parties, on that issue. We need to begin facing up squarely and honestly to hard and even horrible facts; and, that will require courage, rather than neutrality. As many people as can be persuaded to do so, need to look squarely into the faces of Congressional Republicans, and tell them, "Your party has been severely and consistently wrong, on this matter, for the past 40 years. And we are now facing disasters we can no longer prevent, or control, because of how wrong your party has been, for decades. The time has come when Republicans need to change their position, dramatically, on global warming. You need to begin facing facts, and reality, and you need to begin doing what is right. Because,

among other things, the voters of America are seeing undeniable facts, and are realizing, in greater and greater numbers, every year, just how severe and threatening the approaching dangers, upheavals, and disasters really are. If the Republican Party continues to refuse to face up to reality, the voters will throw you out, and they will choose others, if necessary, to do what needs to be done.”

No matter how many people begin doing things like that, we all need to accept that ***no single election will create a major change in trajectory, in how Congress begins responding to global warming***. Even if the Republican Party undergoes – partly before the 2022 election, and partly after seeing its results – a series of cracks which might someday expand into more (and more serious) acts of conscience, integrity, and true leadership, any number of crusty, cantankerous, stubborn, and unwilling-to-think `oldsters`, combined with loud and aggressive `culture warriors`, will continue to do anything and everything possible, to try to paint anyone they regard as a rival for power – i.e., anyone who is trying to actually help America get ready for the global warming problems that are coming – as socialists, extremists, far-left-wingers, and radicals. Accordingly, anyone who wants to help, should anticipate that response, and should begin proposing, discussing, and planning ways to overcome that type of opposition.