

February 12, 2010

I am Dr. Andrew Jorgenson of the University of Utah. I am an environmental macro-sociologist and a member of the university's sociology department. I am also affiliated with the university's environmental studies program, statistics program, and the Institute of Public and International Affairs. Over the past decade I've used sophisticated statistical modeling techniques to study the human dimensions of global environmental change. Much of the research, which has already resulted in over 40 rigorously peer reviewed research publications, deals with the human causes of greenhouse gas emissions as well as ways to reduce anthropogenic emissions and other forms of pollution and environmental harms. I've been invited to lecture on this research at universities around the country—including Duke, Indiana, and the University of California, as well as abroad as far away as Vilnius University in Lithuania and University of Lund in Sweden. While this isn't the time to provide details of this research, it is clearly appropriate to underscore that much of this research has significant implications for the societal aspects of policies concerning climate change at local, national, and international levels. And here at this university I am surrounded by many other brilliant scientists whose research speaks directly to these sorts of issues in general and HJR 12 in particular.

I have deep roots in Utah. I was born here. I was an undergrad at the University of Utah. My aunt and father in-law are retired University of Utah professors. Much of my extended family consists of wonderful, giving people who work in the energy and agricultural sectors in rural parts of the state. I was raised by my immediate and extended family to love and respect the environment and people from all walks of life and to use our natural resources responsibly. These learned values and lessons are what

prompted me to pursue a PhD and to study society / environment relationships in their many manifestations.

I respectfully disagree with HJR 12 – the Climate Change Joint Resolution. While I value the service of the state legislature members and their commitment to the people of Utah, their handling of this issue and the crafting of this resolution troubles me. There is very few (if any) objective or scientifically legitimate statements in the resolution. I've been a faculty member at two other flagship public universities across the country, and in the past I've been called upon by members of congress to offer my expertise to help develop pieces of federal legislation and policies concerning energy, climate change, and other related issues. I chose to join the University of Utah community as a faculty member largely because of the world-class, rigorous, and objective research done across the campus, especially the research done here on human / environment topics, including research on climate change. And like my colleagues here today, I'm committed to scientific rigor, offering top notch educational programs at this wonderful university, and to doing whatever else I can to help improve the lives of the people of the state of Utah. Given that we here at this university are also employees of the State of Utah, I ask the state legislators to call on us and use our individual and collective expertise when considering this and other important issues. Actually, I plead them to do so.