

Testimony to the New Hampshire House of Representatives on HCR-1

Personal Information: Jörg Matschullat, Etna, NH 03750

Bill Details: HCR1, a resolution calling for policymakers locally and nationally to fully consider all relevant information and factors pertaining to climate change

Position: Neutral

NH House or Senate Committee: State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs

Date and Location: 02/07/2025 01:00 pm LOB Room 206-208

“Dear Chairman Moffett, dear Members of the Committee,

“My name is Jörg Matschullat and I am representing myself today. I am a German citizen, retired in September 2023 from my professorship in Germany and currently work at Dartmouth College.”

“I am neutral on this proposal. As far as its wording goes, you are a lot more experienced than I will likely ever be.”

“My expertise is in environmental and climate science, having served as full professor and chair. I volunteered as advisor on climate-change related issues to the Saxon Government in Germany. As of the year 2000, I co-chaired a bi-annual regional climate change conference, targeting decision makers and stakeholders as an honest broker, translating science to a more generalist audience. As member of the German IPCC-team, Working Group 1 on the Physics of Climate Change, which works like a think-tank, I reviewed IPCC tasks and identified knowledge gaps. *My qualifications include BSc and MSc in Geosciences, a PhD in environmental geochemistry, Post-Doc and teaching experience in climatology and atmospheric chemistry. I was Principal Investigator in various large-scale research projects such as on “Climate-change related extremes” (EU, C.A.F.E.) and on “Adaptation to climate change” (DE-BMBF, REGKLAM).*”

“I am concerned about human-activity-driven climate change because it poses significant and avoidable risks to societies, including us in New England. It does not help to turn a blind eye, hoping that these risks move away by themselves. However, related challenges can be met by preparing for the known and highly likely, as well as by critical scrutiny of the evidence in all related fields of expertise. I am also concerned about misperceptions in the public understanding of the issue which drive irrational behavior and inappropriate reactions rather than supporting calm scrutiny and open discussion.”

“The bill proposes to improve the legislative process by considering all relevant information pertaining to climate change. Let me provide an example of relevant information that is often missing from current climate discussions: The likely biggest misperception is that climate change questions planetary survival (“we need to save the world”). That is uncalled for and of little to no help. Instead, we need to look at opportunities and possibilities that can help us to counter climate change, to adapt to irrevocable consequences, as well as to benefit from local and regional chances that automatically emerge from climate dynamics.”

“My personal experiences with climate information or alarmism include the following story: As an academic teacher, I am in close contact with the young generation and perceive their worries. As responsible citizen with expert background in climate-change related matters, I volunteered in serving as regional government advisor in Germany, and never turned down requests by public services, schools, community colleges and universities to discuss the topic with lay people.

It is in this context that I quickly learned two things: One, that normal people can neither automatically understand the scientific jargon and the displays of science graphics, and two that many people often feel helpless and intimidated by much of the public discussion in media and even public hearings. This insight changed my way of communication with lay people and led to products such as a free booklet, entitled “Climate Change – Climate Swindle”, targeted to a lay audience that wishes to discern between fake and credible, evidence-based information.

The Ancient Greek politician and general Perikles (495–429 BC) said “*It is not about predicting the future, but of being prepared for it*”. It is this foresighted and constructive spirit that any society needs to face the future and its challenges to successfully develop and open opportunities for future generations.

My **bottom line** is: There is no reason to panic – panicking never solves problems but usually leads to agony or inappropriate reactions. There is reason, however, to take precautions and to increase societal resilience. This can be done following the “no-regret”-principle which means that measures taken will neither waste resources nor do damage, even if the future reality does not turn out exactly as projected today.”

“Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today.”

“I am available to respond to any comments or questions.”

References or Citations (if needed):

I happily submit my list of publications on the topic; a copy is with me.