

But they are not real, and some of what has been said is pretty flagrant.

One of the lead Senate deniers came to the floor the other day to challenge President Obama. President Obama said this in his State of the Union Address:

But the fact is, the 12 hottest years on record have all come in the last 15. Heat waves, droughts, wildfires, and floods—all are now more frequent and intense.

My denier colleague quoted him. And to quote my colleague, he said—referring to the President:

The President said, yes, it's true that no single event makes a trend. But the fact is that the 12 hottest years on record have all come in the last 15. That is just flat wrong.

So why don't we just take a look and see where the President got his information so we can put this into some perspective. The President got his information from NASA. Maybe people in this body are more capable than NASA at dealing with scientific things, but when you consider that NASA has put an explorer on the surface of Mars, I think they are entitled to some credence about basic science. And they agree—in fact, Reto Ruedy, a program manager at the Goddard Institute, has laid out the actual years. Some of these are statistical ties because they are equally hot.

The No. 1 and 2 hottest years, according to them, are 2010 and 2005. The No. 3 through 8 hottest years are 2007, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2006, and 2009. The 9th through 12th hottest years recorded are 2012, 2011, 2001, and 2004. If you go to the 13th year, it is 2008. The 14th and the 15th are 1997 and 1995. All of the 15 hottest years on record are 1995 and thereafter. The top 12, all have happened 1998 and thereafter.

It is not just NASA's data set that confirms this. NOAA also looks at the same information. They come at it a little bit differently—and they do have a difference. I will concede that. NOAA considers 2012 to be the 10th warmest year on record instead of the 9th. That is the difference between NASA and NOAA. And we are talking about records going back to 1880, so it is a broad data set.

If you look at NOAA's data, it actually shows that 14 of the past 15 years were the hottest on record. Ditto the National Center for Atmospheric Research.

Of course, as many of us know, in political life there is a group out there called Politifact that takes a look at claims that are made in the public debate and politics, and they assign them "true" to "pants on fire." They looked at the President's claim that the 12 hottest years on record have come in the last 15 years. They gave the President a "true." Indeed, they said:

Obama was actually overcautious in his statement, so we rate his statement true.

So we have one denier—a Senator—against NASA, against Politifact, against NOAA, and against the National Center for Atmospheric Research. I think it is pretty clear who has the facts on their side.

This is the other statement that was made:

I don't think anyone disagrees with the fact that we actually are in a cold period that started about 9 years ago.

Let's look at the facts. This is the temperature data. The green represents the actual data. The red line is a statistically derived mean of all that information. It is something that is done mathematically. It is not amenable to argument; it is not amenable to debate. You can do it using different methods, but it is clear from that data set that we are in fact in a warming period, not a cooling period.

So how do you get to say that in 9 years we are in a cooling period? Well, if you go back a few years here, you see there are some high points, and if you pick just those high points and then you go forward 9 years, you can draw a graph that goes down. But you have to be very careful how you pick your points to create that illusion. You can actually do it, if you want, repeatedly in the data. You could pick this point and have it go down. You could pick this point and have it go down, and this, and this.

For each one of those points, you could say: Well, during this period, it was actually a cold period. It was actually a cooling period.

But when you look at the actual information and when you look at the statistically driven mean that cuts through all the data, it is pretty clear that to try to look at it this way is playing tricks with the data. It is playing games and trying to fool people. It is twisting and distorting the data.

I think that is a less-than-honest application of these facts. So if that is the sort of misleading statistical trick the polluters and their advocates have to resort to, that is just another reminder that it really is time for us to wake up and get to work on this. There is no credible scientific debate over what carbon pollution is doing to our atmosphere and our oceans, and it is pretty darned clear that it is warming—and warming pretty fast.

I appreciate the opportunity for this clarification.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Politifact article that I referred to in my remarks be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

BARACK OBAMA SAYS THE 12 HOTTEST YEARS ON RECORD HAVE COME IN THE LAST 15 YEARS

During his State of the Union address, President Barack Obama touted the country's progress in reducing carbon pollution

emissions but added that recent advances in fuel efficiency and renewable energy have not done enough to curb climate change.

"For the sake of our children and our future, we must do more to combat climate change," Obama said. "Now, it's true that no single event makes a trend. But the fact is, the 12 hottest years on record have all come in the last 15. Heat waves, droughts, wildfires, floods—all are now more frequent and more intense."

In 2012, the country experienced severe weather threats including drought, a devastating Hurricane Sandy and severe thunderstorms. We decided to fact-check whether the 12 hottest years on record have all come since 1998.

The White House directed us to NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, which tracks global surface temperatures. The institute concluded that 2012 was the ninth-warmest year on record, with 2010 and 2005 being the all-time highs.

For the contiguous United States, 2012 was the country's warmest year yet. It beat the previous record by one degree Fahrenheit.

Reto Ruedy, a program manager at the Goddard Institute, told Politifact that the institute's data produces the following ranking of hottest years. Items on the same line are statistically tied.

1-2: 2010, 2005

3-8: 2007, 1998, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2009

9-12: 2012, 2011, 2001, 2004

13: 2008

14: 1997

15: 1995

This analysis shows that 13 of the warmest years have occurred in the past 15 years. Alternately, one could say that 12 of the warmest years came in the last 13.

We see a few other issues to note.

The NASA data set isn't the only one available. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration also analyzes global surface temperatures using its own methodology. The two measurements diverge somewhat—NOAA considers 2012 the 10th-warmest year on record since records began in 1880, rather than the ninth.

However, NOAA's data for land and ocean temperature anomalies shows that 14 of the past 15 years were the hottest on record.

There are other ways one could measure "hottest years." Kevin Trenberth, a scientist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research, agreed with the 13-of-15 calculation. But he added that the NASA and NOAA values refer to global mean surface temperature. "One could define 'hottest' in other ways, such as by how much Arctic sea ice there is," he said.

OUR RULING

Obama said, "The 12 hottest years on record have all come in the last 15." Data from NASA shows 13 of the hottest years on record have come in the last 15, and by a different data set produced by NOAA, 14 of the hottest years on record have come in the last 15. Obama was actually over-cautious in his statement, so we rate his statement True.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND DAVIS

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the distinguished public service of Raymond Davis, who for 40 years has served the U.S. Senate, first for the Architect of the Capitol and later as a technical assistant and information specialist in the Office of Public Records for the Secretary of the Senate. His institutional knowledge and understanding of filing processes and disclosure laws have been invaluable in helping the Senate fulfill its

commitment and obligation to openness and transparency, while his kind and helpful character has been a benefit to everyone in the Senate community.

Raymond first worked for the Architect of the Capitol where he was tasked with jobs from busing tables at lunchtime to flying flags over the Capitol Building. He was soon hired as a clerk by the Secretary of the Senate and would go on to serve in the Office of Public Records taking on responsibilities ranging from lobbying registration to campaign finance disclosure.

During his many years of service, Raymond always put customer service first. Candidates who filed a Senate campaign report, and Senators and staff members who filed a financial disclosure report or other Senate report, encountered Raymond's efficient and very capable assistance. Over the years, he also assisted those filing lobbying registrations and reports. The public, the press and researchers have all benefitted from his knowledge and guidance in the Office of Public Records.

Raymond is known throughout the Senate community, to those who frequent his office and to those who look forward to his cheerful greeting each day in the halls, as a friendly and welcoming colleague. An avid sportsman, Raymond was a slugger for the Senate Document Room softball team and a regular at Senate coed football and Capitol Hill touch football league games.

Through his deft knowledge and faithful customer service, Raymond has significantly contributed to the functioning of this institution. He has been an important mentor to others, helping to train staff and pass on the knowledge he gained in four decades of work.

The Senate can be proud of Raymond Davis' legacy of public service. We are grateful for his many contributions, and we wish him well in retirement and all his future endeavors.

VOTE EXPLANATIONS

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, due to unexpected family commitments, I was unable to cast a vote relative to rollcall vote Nos. 22, 23, 25, 28, 29, and 30. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: yea on the nomination of Robert E. Bacharach to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth District, yea on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Charles T. Hagel to be Secretary of Defense, yea on the nomination of Jacob L. Lew to be Secretary of the Treasury, yea on the nomination of Katherine Failla to be U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York, nay on Senate amendment No. 25 related to elimination of funding for the National Security Working Group, and yea on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Caitlin Joan Halligan to be U.S. Cir-

cuit Judge for the District of Columbia Court.

COMMEMORATING ISRAEL'S 65TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, this year marks 65 years since the State of Israel was born, and I wish to speak today about the importance of that occasion and the celebration that will take place in communities all across the world.

Our country has a deep friendship with Israel, dating back to just 11 minutes after its creation on May 14, 1948, when President Harry Truman became one of the first world leaders to recognize Israel's independence.

Our two nations have always been friends and allies in our struggle to make the world a safer place. I am proud of our long friendship and our shared values.

When Israel was founded, the Jewish people finally had a home. The new State provided not only a refuge to Jews who survived the unprecedented horrors of the Holocaust, but also a place to begin anew. Even in such a tough and unforgiving climate, the Jewish people knew they could build a country that could help change the world.

The Walk the Land 65 project is the perfect way to celebrate Israel's anniversary. The theme of this year's walk is to celebrate life, and people all across the world will join together and walk through their communities by honoring Israel's gifts to the world, especially those regarding life: creating life, sustaining life, saving life, preserving life, enhancing life, protecting life, improving life, cherishing life, nurturing life and beautifying life.

As a collaboration between the Afikim Foundation, the World Zionist Organization and the Israel Ministry of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs, Walk the Land 65 is showing the world just how important Israel's contributions to the world really are.

I am pleased to see walks taking place across my home State of Michigan: in Flint, Grand Rapids and Metro Detroit.

Every religious, cultural and ethnic group across the State is an important thread in Michigan's rich cultural fabric. We in Michigan are proud of our Jewish communities and their contributions to our State.

One important attribute that the people of Israel share with the people of the United States is our system of values. Both countries are lands of freedom and democracy. While these two countries were formed at very different times, they both uphold and honor critical freedoms—freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed.

This foundation has led to a country that truly celebrates life and works to improve life across the world. Israel

began in a desert, but today, it is a fountain of culture, innovation and industry.

This didn't happen overnight, though. David Ben-Gurion and the founders of Israel had a great vision for their country. They built Israel from scratch, turning the arid land into fertile farms and thriving cities.

Israel is a leader in innovation for creating, sustaining, preserving and saving lives through its work in agriculture and health care. It is also enhancing life through its innovation in technology, alternative energy and so many other fields.

Today, Israel is among the top three countries in the world in terms of patents per capita, and number one in terms of startup businesses per capita. Israel is also a leader in clean energy research and development, and is helping to create the power the world needs.

The Israeli people are leaders in celebrating life, as evidenced by their humanitarian works and their pioneering medical advances that will save and improve people's lives, and they are making a real difference throughout the world.

Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values, and an important presence in the region; it shows the world that democracy can survive—and—thrive anywhere people wish to be free.

I am proud of our friendship, and I am proud to help celebrate Israel's 65th Anniversary with the Walk the Land 65 Project.

Congratulations to the people Israel and everyone involved in this wonderful project.

OBSERVING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about International Women's Day. International Women's Day is an occasion to honor and praise women for their accomplishments and to celebrate women who are making a difference, both here in America and around the world. Already this year, we have seen advances for women in the United States. In January, former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced that women in the military can now join their male colleagues on the front line. America's military is the greatest in the world and it has been made stronger with the promise of equal opportunity for women and men. Last month, we reauthorized the Violence Against Women Act, which provides victims of domestic violence with the services they desperately need.

We need to ensure that women across the world, not just in the United States, have the same liberty to determine the scope of their own lives and futures. Unfortunately, in far too many nations women face extraordinary obstacles. A woman's ability to earn a sustained income is severely limited by