

Informal Comments to Editor of the New York Review of Books  
By S. Fred Singer, Aug 8, 2012

I was glad to see my letter in print in the Aug 16 issue of the NYRB, followed by a response by Prof. Wm. D. Nordhaus. Here are brief comments; you may forward them to him if you wish:

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Bill Nordhaus avoids any direct response to my two arguments – for obvious reasons.

1. He relies entirely on surface temperature data – as does the IPCC summary – and studiously ignores atmospheric (from both weather balloons and satellites) and ocean temperatures as well as proxy data. All four independent data sets agree that there was no significant warming in the crucial 1978-2000 interval – in contrast to land-surface data. [Note: Please ignore the year 1998 and temperature spike caused by Super El Nino.]

The latter, largely from poorly sited weather stations, are highly problematic – notwithstanding the hype generated last week in a NYT op-ed by Prof. Rich Muller. Two independent critiques of such data (by Prof. D. Koutsoyiannis and by Anthony Watts *et al.*) were just released. Nordhaus may wish to take note of these.

2. Bill admits that a modest warming may be beneficial – esp. when coupled with higher CO2 levels. His response therefore assumes unreasonably high levels of future average temperatures. But one cannot deal here with global averages. Climate models calculate that most warming occurs in winter nights at high latitudes – and little in the tropics. So we may be talking about winter temperatures in Siberia of -35 degrees instead of -40 degrees.

It sort of lends a different perspective to the economic argument, doesn't it?