

**Howard, Jeff (DEEP)**

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**From:** WaterPartnership <waterpartnership@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 09, 2015 8:01 PM  
**To:** DEEP ClimateChange  
**Subject:** Written comments for the Governor's Council on Climate Change

**To the Governor's Council on Climate Change:**

## **CLIMATE CHANGE AS A SYMPTOM OF A LARGER PROBLEM**

**As Director of a nonprofit environmental organization called The Watershed Partnership, we are particularly interested in climate change. I was trained as a physician specializing in human pathology. Pathology is the study of the cause and effects of human disease. As such, I have learned that it is important to distinguish between symptoms and the root causes of a problem.**

**In studying the issue of climate change and global warming I and many others have come to the conclusion that climate change is a symptom of much larger problems – economic, social, and moral. Without addressing these issues, necessary technological advances will be futile and the continued degradation of the earth inevitable. For example, a system that is dependant on continuous economic growth and based on the unrelenting stimulation of consumption to fuel that growth is unsustainable.**

**I strongly recommend that your commission review “Prosperity Without Growth: Economics for a Finite Planet” by Tim Jackson, Economic Commissioner for the Sustainable Development Commission of Great Britain, and Director of the Research Group on Lifestyles, Values, and Environment at the University of Surrey. Here are links for a good introduction to Tim Jackson’s work:**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZsp\\_EdO2Xk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZsp_EdO2Xk) (24min)**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-D2ONYPnr8c> (37 min)**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZ3Rnfg8oUE> (65 min)**

## **A "MILITARY" STRATEGY FOR CLIMATE POLICY**

**When faced with a military engagement, generals don't plan only for what they think is likely to happen, they also plan for worst case scenarios. The goal of eighty percent greenhouse gas reduction by 2050 is based on the average of many computer models that estimate the relationship between greenhouse gas concentration and global warming. This is not an optimum strategy. We may hope for the best, but we had best prepare for the worst.**

In fact, recent data indicates that the Greenland ice sheet is melting two to three times faster than models have predicted, and that the much larger West Antarctic ice sheet is also probably on an irreversible path to melting. This will mean major increases in sea levels in the not so distant future.

Greenhouse gas reduction goals need to be realistically adjusted to account for worst case scenarios and to allow for developing countries to sustainably increase their standard of living. It is my hope that you will take this into account.

Respectfully,

*Jerry Silbert*

**The Watershed Partnership, Inc.**

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**Watershed:** A time marking a momentous transition.

**Partnership:** A relationship and collaboration between people with common interests.