**Don Baldwin: Not all degrees equal on climate science**

A recent [letter by Vaughan Wright](http://www.theunion.com/opinion/18124388-113/vaughan-wright-the-next-ice-age) stated that a Global Warming Petition was signed by 31,487 American scientists who agreed that there is no convincing evidence that human activity is causing climate change.

These were people with a science degree, not scientists. They represented only 0.3 percent of the science graduates who qualified to complete the survey, and only 0.1 percent were climate scientists.

Researchers at Princeton University determined in 2010 that more than 97 percent of papers published on climate change concluded that it is caused by human activity.

The letter refers to the Space and Science Research Corporation as a leader in climate prediction. Its work has never been published in a peer-reviewed academic journal, only self-published on the Internet. Since 2008 it has had no full-time staff.

The letter criticizes reduction in National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAH) monitoring stations, implying this has compromised data collection.

NOAH has reduced the number of monitoring locations because of improvements in technology, the use of automated buoys, etc., allowing it to reduce physical weather stations. However, data records for surface temperatures have actually grown recently, thanks to the digitization of historical logs and contributions from international data collection centers.

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