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1 May 2009

CO2 Restrictions Threaten Human Life

Washington, D.C., April 30, 2009--The Environmental Protection Agency's "finding" that carbon dioxide emissions endanger "the health and welfare of current and future generations" is absurd, said Alex Epstein, analyst at the Ayn Rand Center for Individual Rights. According to Mr. Epstein, the real danger to Americans' "health and welfare" is policies designed to fight global warming by throttling energy sources that emit CO2.

"Carbon energy has been and remains vital to the industrial society that has doubled human life-expectancies, and, among a million other benefits, enables us to cope with all manner of changes in climate.

"Right now," Mr. Epstein pointed out, "carbon-based sources of energy produce the most, cheapest energy, period--while sunshine and wind gusts, despite decades of subsidies and propaganda, produce an expensive 1 percent of our energy.

"If scientists and entrepreneurs can discover and implement superior sources that happen not to emit CO2, at better prices than today's energy sources, great. But whether that happens or not, we need to recognize that our 'health and welfare' depend on free markets producing industrial-scale energy above all else--and that anyone who tries to shut down life-giving coal plants and oil rigs, in the name of avoiding bad weather, is an enemy of humanity."

Mr. Epstein's op-eds and letters to the editor have appeared in such publications as the *Wall Street Journal*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Canada's *National Post*, and the *Washington Times*. He is also a contributing writer for *The Objective Standard*, a quarterly journal of culture and politics. Mr. Epstein has been a guest on numerous nationally syndicated radio programs.

Mr. Epstein is available for interviews on this topic. To interview Mr. Epstein or book him for your show, please contact: media@aynrandcenter.org