

**Open Letter Regarding the Upcoming Presidential Lecture on October 19, 2021  
Purdue University Center for the Environment (C4E) Building Sustainable Communities  
(BSC) Signature Research Area (SRA)**

To Whom It May Concern,

As scientists, engineers, social scientists, humanity scholars, and other academics, alumni, students, and affiliates of Purdue, we wish to express our concern regarding the upcoming Presidential Lecture on campus. We warmly welcome and encourage a diversity of viewpoints, arguments, and approaches on our campus, and we are proud to be recognized as a beacon of free speech and free inquiry. We encourage critical analyses of received wisdom and many of us have devoted our professional lives to such work. We need to emphasize, however, that such arguments must be based in good reason and rationality, grounded in empirical evidence, and employing rigorous, reproducible, and transparent methods. Claims must always be open to scrutiny, tested against available evidence, and allowed to stand or fall as the facts allow.

In the current case, the speaker, described incorrectly as a climate scientist, has repeatedly demonstrated in his work that he does not meet these standards of scientific evidence and argument. However impeccable his credentials as a scientist in other domains may be, multiple scientists, analysts, and research groups have found this speaker's claims about the climate crisis to be [specious](#), based in [self-contradiction](#), [outdated science](#), [cherry-picked facts](#), and [straw man arguments](#) that obscure rather than reveal truth.

Presuming that this speaker's presentation [parallels his past work and a previous talk at Purdue](#), most climate scientists will see through this speaker's misleading arguments. However, many members of the public and our own students who attend this talk could be forgiven for thinking that this speaker rests his claims on firm ground. As a top research university, it is our civic and professional responsibility to impart knowledge that is accurate and reflects the current state of understanding in our fields; it is similarly our duty to correct erroneous information and distortion. Every member of the faculty, staff, student body, or community who leaves our campus with an inaccurate understanding of the science has been poorly served by our institution.

[Climate change has become one of the defining global grand challenges of our time](#). The science on this is mature, the product of tens of thousands of individuals working in the academy, in industry, and in the public sector over several decades. Our understanding of the phenomenon and its drivers, grown over the past 150+ years and particularly in the last four decades, has withstood countless hours of careful review, contestation, and revision. While all science has areas of active debate, the basic understanding of climate science is firmly grounded and model projections for the consequences of delaying action have, if anything, understated the costs in human, economic, and environmental terms. Climate change threatens our way of life here in the State of Indiana and broadly in the U.S. and promises to be one of the greatest issues of justice and human rights for many hundreds of millions of people elsewhere. There are many real, difficult decisions to be made about how to proceed and many possibilities for credible thought leaders who could be invited to campus to discuss these questions in a sound way. Every hour

that Purdue contributes to sowing doubt and delay is another hour we yield to others to define the cutting edge of inquiry, action, and leadership on climate science.

Please click here to sign the letter: <https://forms.gle/FfxuFftXuabKF1xM7>

Signed<sup>1</sup>,

1. Andrew Flachs Faculty Associate professor Anthropology
2. Jonathan Bauchet Faculty Associate Professor Hospitality and Tourism Management / Ag. Economics
3. Anonymous Faculty Professor EAPS
4. Carolyn Foley Staff Research Coordinator FNR
5. Mark Christie Faculty Associate Professor Biological Sciences and Department of Forestry and Natural Resources
6. Yash Sanghvi Student 2023
7. David Klenosky Faculty Associate Professor Health & Kinesiology
8. Zoe Nyssa Faculty Assistant Professor Department of Anthropology
9. Anonymous Staff Coordinator FNR
10. Mitchell Zischke Faculty Clinical Assistant Professor of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences Forestry and Natural Resources
11. Cindy Ding Student 2022
12. Danielle Williams Staff Field Coordinator Forestry and Natural Resources
13. Nick Burgmeier Staff Research Biologist and Extension Wildlife Specialist Forestry and Natural Resources
14. Ethan Chitty Alumni 2013
15. Ana Morales Student 2022
16. Daniela Mesa Sanchez Student 2022
17. Cade N Kane Student PhD 2023
18. Anonymous Faculty
19. Anonymous Faculty Fbr
20. Susanna LaGory Student 2021
21. Scott McAdam Faculty Assistant Professor Botany and Plant Pathology
22. Jody Banks Faculty Professor Botany and Plant Pathology
23. Anonymous Student Graduate\_2021
24. Robert Flynn Community member Lafayette Indiana
25. Ximena E Bernal Faculty Associate Professor Biological Sciences
26. Kirk Alter Faculty Professor Emeritus PCCRC

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<sup>1</sup> A few signatures are crossed with strikethrough and a few names are changed to “Anonymous” because the entry contains a pseudo name and/or inaccurate affiliation (verified through Purdue directory and searches of university/academic unit names).

27. Barny Dunning Faculty Professor Department of Forestry and Natural Resources
28. Stephanie Masta Faculty Associate Professor Education
29. Wendy Beauvais Faculty Dr. Department of Comparative Pathobiology
30. Christie Shee Staff Graduate Research Assistant Entomology
31. Jane Frankenberger Faculty Professor Agricultural & Biological Engineering
32. David Savage Staff Graduate Research Assistant Forestry and Natural Resources
- ~~33. Dr. Anatole Plumpskin Faculty Doctor of Ursine Studies University of Botswana~~
34. Zhao Ma Faculty Professor Department of Forestry and Natural Resources & Center for the Environment
35. Bailey T Student 2023
36. Brian Leavell Student 2022
37. Morgan Chaney Student 2023
38. Camille Griffith Student PhD
39. Daniel Kelly Faculty Professor Philosophy
40. Emily Usher Staff Senior Research Associate
41. Jianghanyang Li Alumni 2021
42. Laura Zanotti Faculty Professor Center for the Environment
43. Matt Hamilton Staff Laboratory Manager Department of Forestry and Natural Resources
44. Joy Kane Staff Administrative Assistant English Department
45. Jordan Young Student 2022
46. Tim Cason Faculty Distinguished Professor of Economics Economics (Krannert School of Management)
47. Chynna Fry Alumni 2016
48. ~~Hugh Jass~~ Anonymous Student 2023
49. Sylvie Brouder Faculty Professor and Wickersham Chair Agronomy, C4E, PCCRC, PCGFS
50. Clint Chapple Faculty Distinguished Professor Department of Biochemistry
51. Sheikh Yabuti Alumni 1999
52. David Johnson Faculty Assistant Professor Industrial Engineering
53. Jacob Ricker-Gilbert Faculty Professor Agricultural Economics
54. Chad Jafvert Faculty Professor Environmental and Ecological Engineering
55. Brennan Radulski Alumni 2020
56. Yihang Li Student 2024
57. Russell Mayo Faculty Assistant Professor of English Purdue University Northwest
58. Lindsay Weinberg Faculty Clinical Assistant Professor Honors College
59. Anonymous Student 2023
60. Reuben Goforth Faculty Associate Professor of Aquatic Ecology Dept of Forestry & Natural Resources
61. Thomas Hertel Faculty Distinguished Professor Agricultural Economics

62. Emma Engel Student 2024
63. Erica Wallskog Alumni 2003
- ~~64. Sybill Trelawney Staff Professor and Wicker Chair~~
65. Ryan Leahy Alumni 2021
66. Robin Adams Faculty Professor School of Engineering Education
67. Evan White Alumni 2020
68. Madaline Ritter Staff Graduate Research Assistant Forestry and Natural Resources
69. Madi Whitman Alumni 2020
70. Michelle Sanders Alumni 2011
71. Meghan Adams Alumni EEE 2018
72. Michael Morrisson Alumni 2019
73. John Kane Alumni 1987
74. Sharon Kessler Faculty Associate Professor Botany and Plant Pathology
75. Sujith Puthiyaveetil Faculty Assistant Professor Biochemistry
76. Robert Marzec Faculty Professor English, Co-coordinator, Environmental and Sustainability Studies (ESS) Certificate
77. Linda J Pfeiffer Faculty Associate Professor Agricultural Sciences Education & Communication
78. Anonymous Alumni 2012
79. Jeffrey Lucas Faculty Professor Department of Biological Sciences
80. Lindsey Payne Faculty Assistant Professor of Practice Environmental and Ecological Engineering
81. Austin Britton Student 2022
82. Amy Santos Alumni 2021
83. Peter Waser Faculty Professor (emeritus) Biological Sciences
84. Anonymous Student Class\_2023
85. Jennifer Wisecaver Faculty Assistant Professor Biochemistry
86. Sarah Jones Student Graduate 1st year
87. Adrienne Farr Student 2021
88. David Whittinghill Faculty Associate Professor Computer Graphics Technology
89. Amanda White Alumni EEE 2017
90. Nafissa Alumni 2021
91. Danielle Angert Alumni 2021
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93. Leonor Boavida Faculty Assistant Professor Botany and Plant Pathology
94. Catherine Searle Faculty Associate Professor Department of Biological Sciences
95. Anonymous Faculty Professor Emeritus of Physics Department of Physics and Astronomy
96. Jesse Cohn Faculty Associate Professor English and World Languages

97. Haley Hartenstine Student 2022
98. Edith Puthy Community member West Lafayette IN
99. Heidi Etter Alumni EEE 2016
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102. Heather Wicks Faculty Lecturer English
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106. Steve Hallett Faculty Professor Horticulture & Landscape Architecture
107. Sam Hensley Alumni 2020
108. Katelin Burow Student 2025
109. Matt Morgenstern Student PhD
110. Meg Zuercher Alumni 2017
111. Denise Zielinski Faculty Senior Lecturer Biological Sciences
112. Andre Moraes Staff Dr. ABE
113. Caleb Torgerson Alumni 2019
114. Nick Smith Faculty Adjunct Assistant Professor Forestry and Natural Resources
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116. Anonymous Alumni 2019
117. Shannon McMullen Faculty Associate Professor Art & Design | American Studies
118. Alice Pawley Faculty Professor School of Engineering Education
119. Caleb Redick Staff Research Associate FNR
120. Danielle Klawitter Alumni 2019
121. Mita Choudhury Faculty Professor of English Department of English and World Languages, Purdue U Northwest
122. Megan Geraghty Alumni 2020
123. Tony Silva Faculty Professor of English/Second Language Studies Department of English
124. Donald Platt Faculty Professor English Creative Writing / MFA Program in Poetry
125. Avril Harder Alumni 2020
126. Morgan Hynes Faculty Associate Professor Engineering Education
127. Brent K. Jesiek Faculty Professor School of Engineering Education
128. Anonymous Faculty Professor HPPE, PNW
129. Margaux Zook Alumni 2020
130. Shweta singh Student 2021
131. Spencer Siddons Student 2022
132. Olivia Riedling Undergraduate 2022 Department of Biochemistry

133. Marika Santagata Faculty Associate Professor Lyles School of Civil Engineering
134. Ovidiu Toca Staff Postdoctoral research assistant FNR
135. Anonymous Faculty Assistant Professor
136. Theo Sorg Student BS AAE '19, PhD ENE (current)
137. Ben Rivera Staff Graduate student FNR
138. ~~Amanda Hugginkiss~~ Anonymous Student 2023
139. Elise Zaniker Alumni 2021
140. David Detmer Faculty Professor of Philosophy Purdue University Northwest
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145. Anna Erwin Staff Postdoctoral Research Associate Forestry and Natural Resources
146. Zane P. Kane Alumni 2017
147. Nancy Pelaez Faculty Professor Emerita Biological Sciences
148. Donna Riley Faculty Professor School of Engineering Education
149. Lindsay Darling Student 2023
150. Caroline Camfield Student 1st year PhD student
151. Steph Schiavo Alumni 2021
152. John Couture Faculty Associate Professor Departments of Entomology and Forestry and Natural Resources
153. Mary Strickland Staff Graduate Research Assistant Department of Forestry and Natural Resources
154. Grace Estep Staff Undergraduate 2024 Department of Biochemistry
155. Ankita Raturi Faculty Asst. professor ABE
156. Carol A. Brock Staff ENE Retiree
157. Paul White Faculty Professor English
158. Elizabeth Flaherty Faculty Associate Professor Forestry and Natural Resources
159. Katherine Maul Student 2016, 2026
160. Philippe L Bourdeau Faculty Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering Lyles School of Civil Engineering
161. Larry Nies Faculty Professor Civil Engineering / Environmental & Ecological Engineering
162. Carol A. Handwerker Faculty Reinhardt Schuhmann, Jr. Professor of Materials Engineering Environmental & Ecological Engineering
163. Trevor Anderson Faculty Professor Emeritus Chemistry
164. Anne Wrobetz Student 2026
165. Samantha Thomas Alumni 2011
166. Lisa Welp Faculty Associate Professor EAPS
167. Elena E Benedicto Faculty Professor of Linguistics Dept of Linguistics and Dept of

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168. Antonio Bobet Faculty Professor Civil Engineering
169. Michael Runholt Student 2023
170. Alex Kampf Alumni 2014
171. David Holt Student 2022
172. Elin Jacobs Faculty Forestry and Natural Resources
173. Erik Gates Alumni 2015
174. Anonymous Faculty Associate Professor Biological Sciences
175. Stephanie Gardner Faculty Associate Professor Biological Sciences
176. Bradley Dilger Faculty Associate Professor English
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178. Karen Marais Faculty Professor School of Aeronautics and Astronautics
179. Marty Frisbee Faculty Associate Professor EAPS
180. Dan Shepardson Faculty Professor EAPS and EDCI
181. Sara K Winnike-McMillan Faculty Associate Professor ABE, EEE, C4E, PCCRC
182. Dan Szymanski Faculty Professor Center for Plant Biology
183. Monica Wolfe Student 3rd Year PhD Student
184. Hua Cai Faculty Associate Professor Industrial Engineering / Environmental & Ecological Engineering
185. Roberta Weiner Staff Graduate Research Assistant ASEC
186. Jacqueline Linnes Faculty Marta E. Gross Associate Professor Biomedical Engineering
187. Laura Ingwell Faculty Assistant Professor Entomology
188. Fabian Winkler Faculty Professor School of Design, Art and Performance
189. Brian Joseph Leung Faculty Professor Department of English
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191. Marian Wahl Student
192. Michele Buzon Faculty Professor Anthropology
193. Tal Theodorakos Student Class of 2025
194. Rochel Bergman Student PhD
195. Nathan Watervoort Alumni 2021
196. Miguel "Mickey" Hernandez Community member Memphis Tennessee
197. Sarah Cuprewich Alumni 2021
198. Jason Hawes Alumni EEE BS 2017, FNR MS 2019
199. Tyler Morgan Student 2025
200. Sharleen Flowers Student Ph.D. Graduate Student
201. Emily Pearson Student PhD Student
202. Jon Rienstra-Kiracofe Faculty Professor of Practice Chemistry
203. Bart McCarthart Student 25
204. ~~Precious Chin~~ Anonymous Staff Administrative Assistant Department of Asian

## Studies

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206. Robert Auber Student 2021
207. ~~Robert Aubergine~~ Anonymous Student 2022
208. Panagiota Karava Faculty Professor Civil Engineering
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210. ~~Steven Coonen~~ Staff Professor Center for Urban Science and Progress
211. Anonymous Student 2021
212. Tian Li Faculty Assistant Professor School of Mechanical Engineering
213. Patrick Tiffany Staff College of Engineering
214. Mike Saunders Faculty Associate Professor Forestry and Natural Resources
215. Steve Yaninek Faculty Professor Department of Entomology
216. Jennifer Freeman Faculty Professor, School of Health Sciences, and Interim Director, Center for the Environment
217. Tara Grillos Faculty Assistant Professor Political Science
218. Patrick Kerstein Faculty Assistant Professor School of Health Sciences, Center for the Environment
219. Humberto Monsivais Student 2023
220. Wei Zheng Faculty Professor of Health Sciences and Toxicology School of Health Sciences
221. Kristina Fay Staff Administrative Assistant School of Health Sciences
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223. Ellen M. Wells Faculty Associate Professor School of Health Sciences and Department of Public Health
224. Jeff Volenec Faculty Professor Dept. of Agronomy; President, Amer. Soc. of Agron.; Member: PCCRC, C4E
225. Ulrike Dydak Faculty Professor School of Health Sciences
226. Benjamin Goller Staff Postdoc Biological Sciences
227. Victoria Braegger Student PhD Student
228. Zachary Feiner Alumni 2015
229. Patrice Baumhardt Staff Research Associate Department of Biological Sciences
230. Katie Colgan Student 2025
231. Isha Gupta Student Junior
232. Eric P Kvam Faculty Prof MSE
233. Victoria Sinfield Student 2023
234. Taylor Stinchcomb Student 2022
235. Ingrid Lund-Mikkelsen Student PharmD Student 2025
236. Erin Burke Student First Year Pharmacy Student
237. Margot Cruz-Portillo Student 2023
238. Natasha Das Student 2023

239. Joe Pahoresky Student 2025
240. Zahra Tehrani Faculty Clinical Assistant Professor Honors College
241. Dominic Gery Student 2024
242. Ella Johnson Student 2023
243. Paradyse Blackwood Student 2024 PhD
244. Alexander Kling Student 2025
245. Phoebe Kinzelman Alumni 2020
246. James Haber Student 2023
247. Dr. Melissa Lane Community member Lititz PA
248. Stephanie Menten Student 2nd Year PhD Student
249. Anonymous Student PHD 2025
250. Christopher Calvelage Alumni 2021
251. Evelyn Blackwood Faculty Professor Emerita Department of Anthropology
252. Elizabeth Kriebel Alumni 2020
253. Casey Wright Student MS\_2019
254. Alex Anderson Student 2026
255. anonymous Alumni may\_2020
256. Carly Evich Student PhD\_2022
257. Ernest R. Blatchley III Faculty Lee A. Rieth Professor in Environmental Engineering  
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258. Clifford Sadof Faculty Professor Entomology
259. Abdel Halloway Staff Visiting Scholar Plant Biology
260. Aashna Aggarwal Student 2023
261. James Garrison Faculty Professor School of Aeronautics and Astronautics
262. Kevin Altman Student 2021
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272. Dalton Mullins Student Senior
273. Hannah Britton Student Graduate student
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275. Anonymous Student 2021

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284. Risa Cromer Faculty Assistant Professor Anthropology
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286. Rosalee Clawson Faculty Professor Department of Political Science
287. Ronnie Wilbur Faculty Professor HHS/SLHS and CLA/SIS/Linguistics
288. Michael Johnston Faculty Associate Professor English
289. Beth Jones Faculty Limited Term Lecturer English
290. Samantha L. Seybold Student 2023
291. Jonathan Moss Alumni 2019
292. Patrick Andrew Zollner Faculty Professor of Quantitative Ecology Department of Forestry and Natural Resources
293. Lauren Gustafson Student 2023
294. Michael McNamara Faculty Associate Professor DAP/Theatre
295. Becca Nixon Staff FNR
296. Anonymous Alumni 2018
297. Melinda Miller Alumni 2016
298. Anonymous Alumni 2014
299. Anonymous Alumni
300. American Association of University Professors Executive Committee
301. Anonymous Student 2023