

New Ethical Low for Global Warming Movement: Pacific Institute Reinstates Confessed Fraudster, Peter Gleick

The Pacific Institute's decision on June 6, 2012 to reinstate confessed criminal Peter Gleick as president is a new ethical low for the climate science community.

Gleick is well known for attacking climate scientists who disagree with his opinions. He supports the hypothesis of catastrophic human-caused global warming. The Pacific Institute describes itself as "advancing environmental protection, economic development, and social equity with science-based solutions that lead to social and political change."

Prominent climate alarmist Peter Gleick admitted on February 20, 2012 that he stole private documents from the Heartland Institute by fraudulently impersonating a board member. Heartland is a conservative American think tank engaged in free market solutions for social and economic issues – of which questioning human-caused climate change is one key element of their research.

Gleick sent the Heartland documents and a forged fake document to journalists and liberal activists. The fake document contained a number of false and outrageous statements damaging to the reputation of the Heartland Institute.

At the time, Peter Gleick was head of the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security; Chairman of the American Geophysical Unit (AGU) Committee on Scientific Ethics; and a director of the National Center for Science Education (NCSE). Gleick admitted he stole the private documents only after several investigators compiled evidence that Gleick was the likely forger of the fake document.

The scandal became known as "Fakegate" due to the fake document that Gleick sent to journalists. Several alarmist groups used the fake document to launch a misinformation campaign targeting Heartland Institute donors.

The Pacific Institute failed to explain why a confessed criminal should be reinstated as its president.

The Heartland Institute issued a statement on June 7, stating "The Pacific Institute's board of directors has failed to perform its duty and should be deeply ashamed. We have asked the federal government to prosecute Gleick for what we believe were serious crimes."

That the Pacific Institute should have a president who has committed theft, fraud and defamation is an affront to all scientists and taints all Pacific Institute publications. The reinstatement of

Peter Gleick as president confirms the basic moral corruption of the Pacific Institute in particular and of the global-warming alarmist movement in general.

References:

Heartland Institute's Fakegate website <http://fakegate.org/>

Pacific Institute press release

http://www.pacinst.org/press_center/press_releases/statement6612.html

June 10, 2012