

October 14, 2015



His Holiness, Pope Francis

Apostolic Palace
00120 Vatican City State

Your Holiness:

As the leader of 1.5 billion Catholics...almost one quarter of the entire world population...your initiatives on calling for the increased prosperity of the world's poor as well as the protection of the Earth's environment are remarkable.

However, many imminent scientists say "climate change as caused by man" is not an entirely settled matter. Carbon dioxide emissions alone may not have significant impact on temperatures and climate change. Anthropogenic global warming (AGW) is, of course, the opinion of many scientists, and perhaps more importantly, political institutions that benefit from that opinion. We, the undersigned, are reminded of [Galileo Galilei's famous letter](#) to the Grand Duchess Christina written in 1615.

"Certainly no one doubts that the Supreme Pontiff has always an absolute power to approve or condemn; but it is not in the power of any created being to make things true or false, for this belongs to their own nature and to the fact. Therefore in my judgment one should first be assured of the necessary and immutable truth of the fact, over which no man has power. This is wiser counsel than to condemn either side in the absence of such certainty, thus depriving oneself of continued authority and ability to choose by determining things which are now undetermined, open and still lodged in the will of supreme authority."

In brief, it [may be impossible to conclude today](#), based on the best scientific means and analysis available, that the use of fossil fuels increases the mean global temperature or directly alters climate conditions. It is 100% clear beyond any reasonable doubt that the use of fossil fuels by man has provided an unprecedented level of elevated human condition; i.e. abundant food production, transportation, safe and secure housing, medical treatments, and the like. One only needs to study the conditions in pre-industrialized Europe to appreciate the modern energy based standard of living and human life expectancies.

Perhaps the real problem is not climate change, per se. The real problem may be the inequality of the [energy available to people](#) in industrialized nations such as America versus those of undeveloped nations. We note that in order for all people in the world to

