RESEARCH SUMMARY

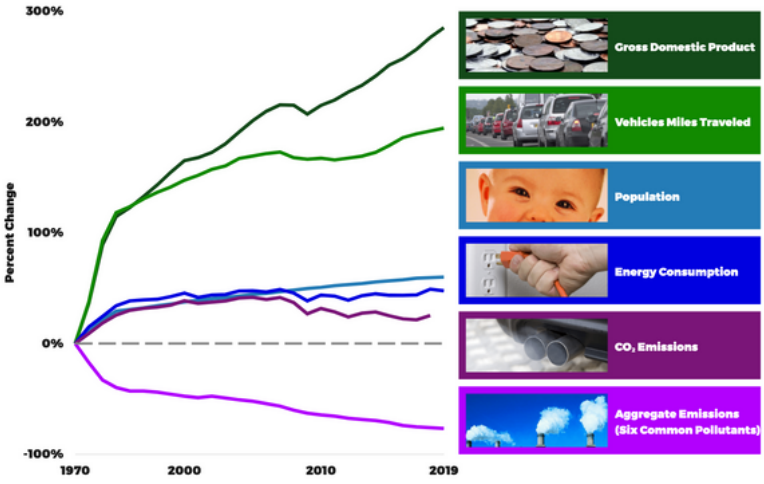
THE EPA'S PRETENSE OF SCIENCE

Regulating phantom risks

Of the six air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act, fine particulate matter (also called PM2.5) is among the most controversial. The Obama Administration's EPA engaged in unprecedented regulatory overreach under the misguided assumption that PM2.5 concentration must be reduced to zero, citing questionable statistics claiming it causes tens of thousands of deaths annually. However, the best science suggests such stringent regulations are unnecessary — and unnecessarily costly to taxpayers.

- Toxicological evidence shows humans have a natural resistance to low levels of PM2.5, which occurs naturally in the form of dust, pollen, and ash and is also produced by combustion.
- The EPA should focus on causal connections between ambient levels of PM2.5 and adverse health effects. Studies focusing on loss of "statistical lives," which bear no relationship to actual human deaths, are not rigorous enough to justify the vast economic cost of new regulations.
- PM2.5 levels in the United States are already among the lowest in the world — so low as to be near natural background levels.

Fortunately, American innovation and ingenuity are succeeding at reducing all of the Clean Air Act's criteria pollutants. Since 1970, pollution levels have fallen by 77% — all while our economy nearly tripled, population grew by 60%, and energy consumption rose 49%. Continued technological progress, and urging our allies abroad to share our commitment to environmental quality, will create an even cleaner, more prosperous future.



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