Caesar Rodney Institute
Center for Energy & Environment

Transportation Climate Initiative Points and Counterpoints

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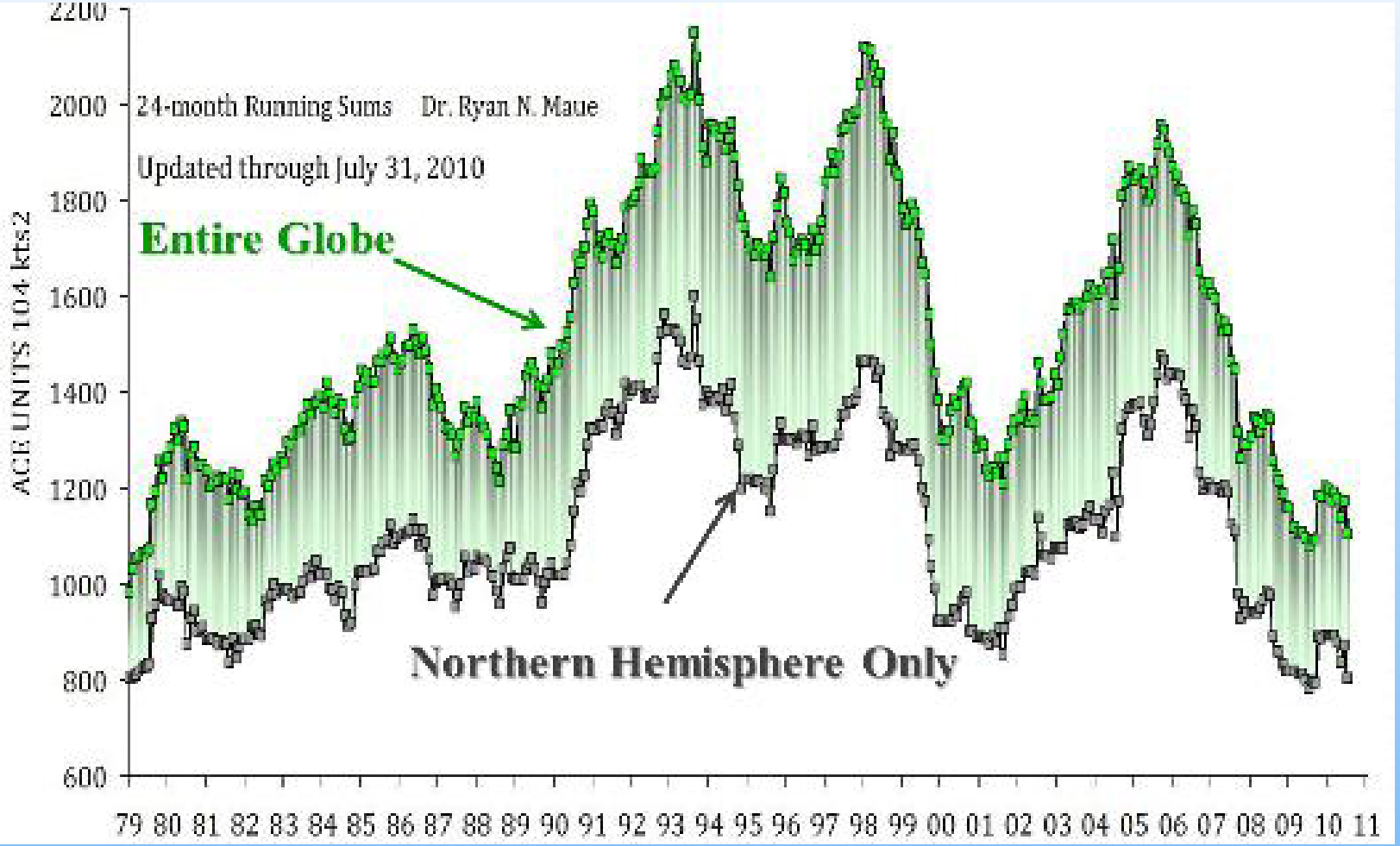
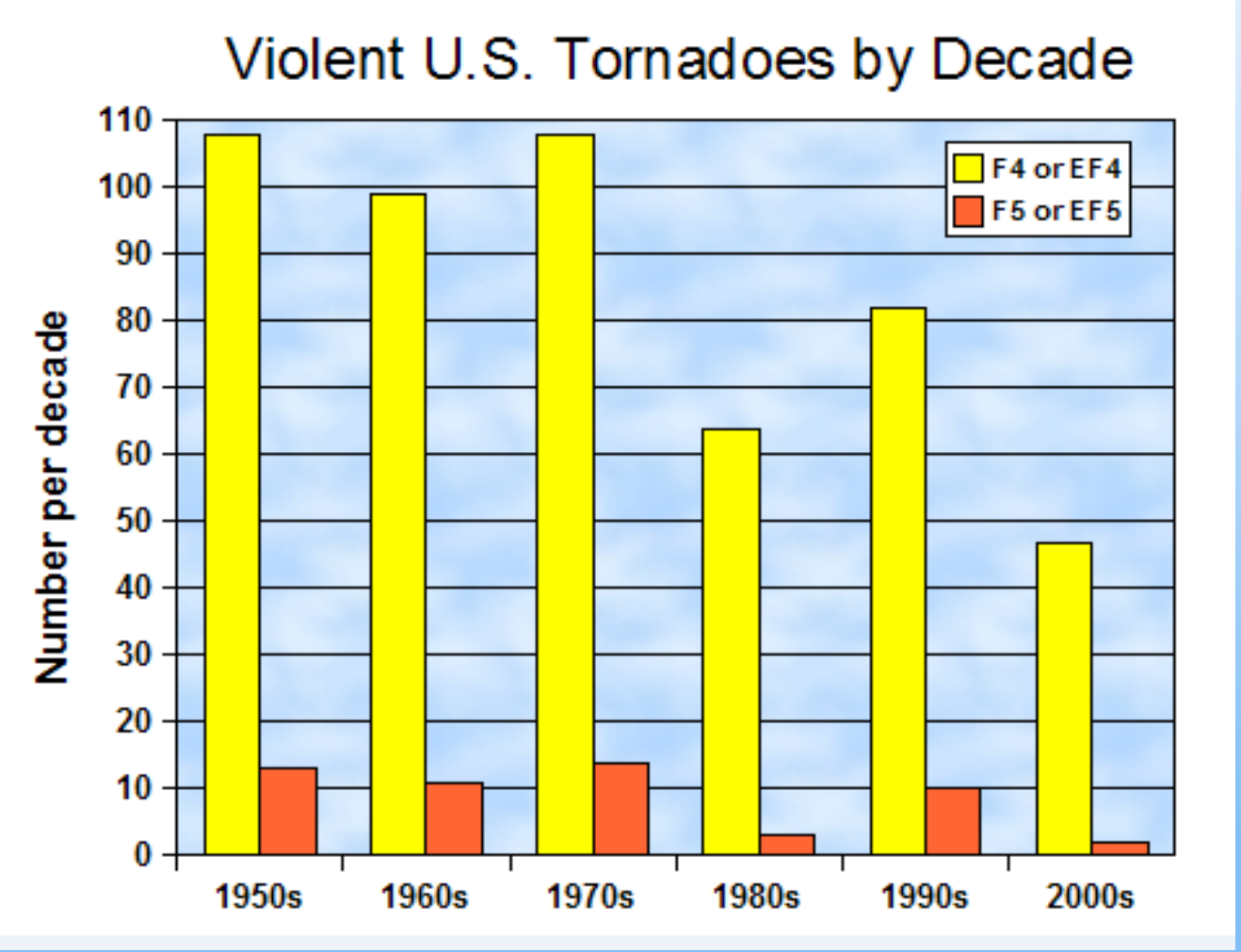
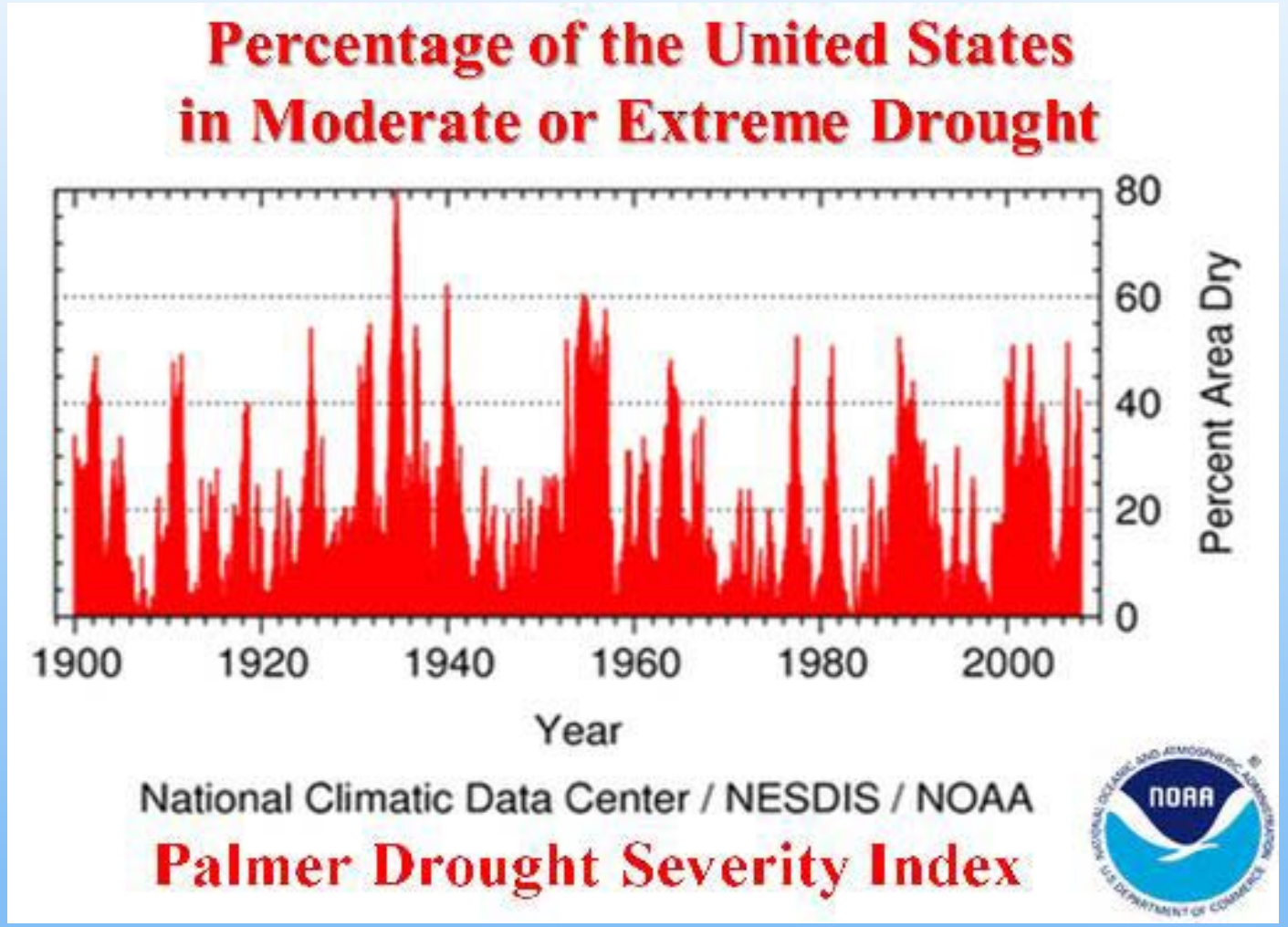
TCI Point: climate change has resulted in the increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events

Counter Point: Even the United Nations IPCC does not make that claim. Average sea level rise has been constant since 1930 at about 7 inches per century despite rising temperatures



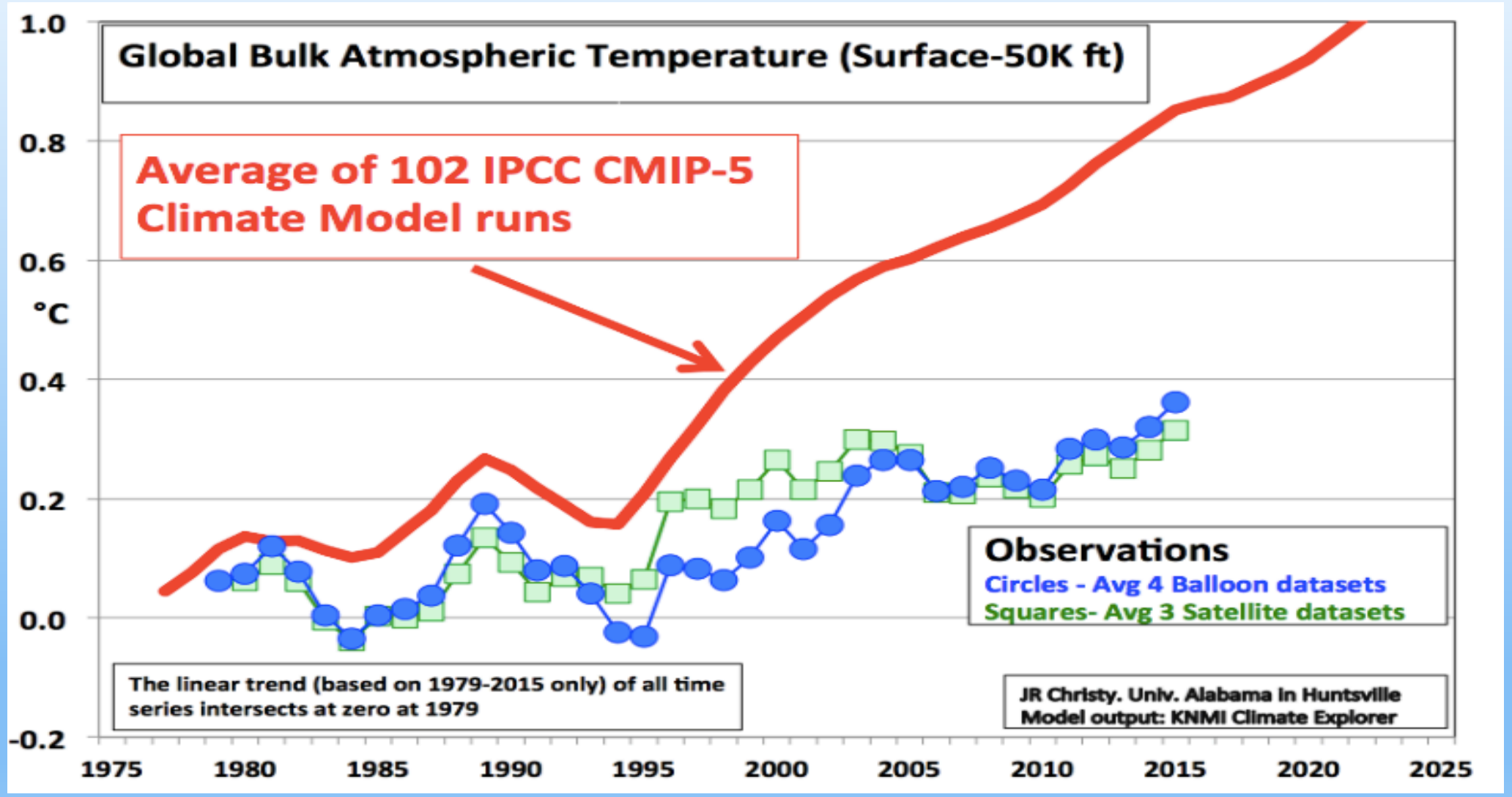
Tropical Cyclone _Accumulated Cyclone Energy‘ from 1979 to 2010
http://www.coaps.fsu.edu/~maue/tropical/global_running_ace.jpg


Violent U.S. Tornadoes by Decade
Number per decade
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
F4 or EF4
F5 or EF5
1950s
1960s
1970s
1980s
1990s
2000s


Percentage of the United States
in Moderate or Extreme Drought
80
60
40
20
0
Percent Area Dry
1900
1920
1940
1960
1980
2000
Year
National Climatic Data Center / NESDIS / NOAA
Palmer Drought Severity Index
NOAA

TCI Point: climate change poses a clear, present, and increasingly dangerous threat to the communities and economic security

Counter Point: Global temperatures are rising, but not at crisis levels, about 1.5 degrees C per century


Global Bulk Atmospheric Temperature (Surface-50K ft)
Average of 102 IPCC CMIP-5 Climate Model runs
1.0
0.8
0.6
°C
0.4
0.2
0.0
-0.2
1975
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
2015
2020
2025
Observations
Circles - Avg 4 Balloon datasets
Squares- Avg 3 Satellite datasets
The linear trend (based on 1979-2015 only) of all time series intersects at zero at 1979
JR Christy. Univ. Alabama in Huntsville
Model output: KNMI Climate Explorer

TCI Point: States need to work together to reduce emissions
Counter Points:

- Per capita emissions from Pennsylvania electric power plants fell 40 percent, the same as RGGI states
- Emissions down 64 million tons from 2005 to 2017, or 23 percent. While US emissions fell 14 percent, with the rest of the developed world cutting only 5 percent
- Pennsylvania natural gas production rose 6 trillion cubic feet replacing higher emitting coal saving 308 million tons of emissions, and reduced energy costs $2,000 a year per American family
- Pennsylvania has over 15 million acres of forest cover absorbing 15 to 38 million tons of carbon dioxide a year
- Pennsylvania is easily covering its current 215 million tons of emissions, and needs do nothing more.

TCI Point: accelerating the transition to cleaner, more efficient transportation sector will improve public health, and create new economic opportunities

Counter Points:

- RGGI program didn't reduce emissions, or provide health benefits
- TCI projects $1 billion a year in higher PA motor fuel prices
- $210 higher annual cost per household, $2,100 over ten years
- TCI economic benefits ignore economic impacts of higher fuel cost
- 75% of expected improvements already happening (market/CAFE)
- TCI health benefits are exaggerated by 5X
- $45 billion for electric cars to save 16.5 mm tons is $2,700/ton, RGGI at $6
- Tesla dropped car prices $3,000 to compensate for falling subsidies

TCI Point: Higher fuel prices will change travel habits Counter Points:

- US EIA reports a 25-50% price increase will reduce miles traveled 1%, the 6% target would need a fuel cost increase of $3.72/gallon
- Each 1 cent per gallon increase reduces miles traveled 3.5 miles, the TCI needs a 477 mile/year reduction which would add $1.36/gallon, 4X planned
- 10% of revenue investments will go to sidewalks and trails to encourage biking and walking. Sorry, people will stay in their cars
- Tax revenues will go to buy electric buses. About 60 percent of buses already switched to alternative fuels by 2017 to reduce emissions, and lower costs. Switching to electric makes no sense.

TCI Point: Low income people will benefit from improved public transit, walking, and cleaner air
Counter Points:

- Public transit is already available, and often under utilized
- No thanks on the walking or biking
- 30% of the US is already in energy poverty, they don't need higher fuel costs, and Pennsylvania already has the nation's 2nd highest fuel tax at $0.587/gallon
- Electric vehicle buyers earn an average of $125,000 annually, would have lower fueling cost, and get to ride in HOV lanes. TCI takes money from the poor and gives it to the rich
- A program that doesn't work won't clean the air
- TCI is only supported by 34% of the population when cost is known