



Silence by Consensus: The Danger of Canceling Climate Skeptic Voices

One of America's greatest strengths has always been its marketplace of ideas. Our nation was built on debate, on challenging the status quo, and on speaking truth to power. Yet today, in many conversations — especially around climate change — that marketplace is shrinking. Dissenting voices are no longer debated, they are silenced.

A striking example is the documentary *Climate Hustle 2: Rise of the Climate Monarchy*, hosted by actor Kevin Sorbo. Released in 2020, the film presents a contrarian look at climate change narratives. It challenges claims of catastrophic warming, points out the hypocrisy of celebrity environmentalists, and questions whether political elites are using fear to consolidate power. Its thesis is bold: The climate debate is less about science than about control, creating what the filmmakers call a new "Climate Monarchy."

Whether or not one agrees with every argument in the film, the larger issue is this: Why are voices like these so quickly dismissed, ridiculed, or de-platformed? What happened to hearing opposing arguments and testing them openly?

When Debate Becomes Dangerous

For decades, Americans have debated climate science. Some argue the Earth is warming rapidly, others believe trends are exaggerated, and still others say we lack the tools to predict long-term outcomes. But in recent years, questioning the narrative has become socially unacceptable. Skepticism — even of climate *policy* rather than climate *science* — is often branded as "denial."

This labeling is not harmless. It delegitimizes sincere questions about the cost of new regulations, the effectiveness of global treaties, or the burden on businesses. Instead of debating trade-offs, we are told debate itself is dangerous.

As *Climate Hustle 2* shows, children are especially targeted with messages of fear. They are told their future is doomed unless radical changes are made immediately. Studies confirm this: A 2021 [global survey](#) of 10,000 young people found that 59 percent were very or extremely worried about climate change, and more than 45 percent said it negatively affected their daily life and functioning. When fear replaces reason, policy is no longer guided by wisdom but by panic.



inga/iStock/Getty Images Plus



The Cost of Silence

The silencing of climate skeptics mirrors a broader cultural trend: Those who challenge prevailing orthodoxies risk cancellation. From universities to corporate boardrooms, and even pulpits, people hesitate to speak lest they be branded as outcasts.

This climate of fear is not unique to environmental policy. It is part of a growing habit of shutting down ideas rather than engaging them. Today it is climate skeptics. Tomorrow it may be parents at school board meetings, pastors speaking biblical truth, or writers questioning government overreach.

The cost is enormous. Innovation stalls when businesses are punished instead of encouraged to find solutions. Civic discourse weakens when questions are mocked instead of answered. And young people grow cynical when they see that “debate” only goes one way.

The Christian Call to Truth

As a nation with Judeo-Christian foundations, we must remember that truth is not afraid of scrutiny. The prophets of Israel stood against kings. The apostles preached Christ against the tide of empire. Free speech and freedom of conscience are not modern inventions — they flow from a biblical worldview that insists every person is made in God’s image and capable of moral reasoning.

To silence dissent is not simply an attack on individuals; it is an attack on that heritage. If only one narrative is allowed, then the voices of conscience, faith, and even truth itself can be drowned out.

Let Debate Be Debate

What should we do? First, we must reclaim the right to ask honest questions. Debating climate change does not mean rejecting care for the earth. Christians are called to stewardship: keeping waterways clean, reducing pollution, and protecting life. But stewardship does not mean surrendering freedom of thought to global elites or government bureaucracies.

Second, we must stop frightening our children into despair. Yes, teach responsibility. Yes, model gratitude for God’s creation. But let us not burden young minds with visions of apocalypse. Instead, let us inspire them to create solutions, to innovate, and to live with hope.

Finally, we must insist on freedom of speech as a cornerstone of American life. *Climate Hustle 2* may not persuade everyone. That is not the point. The point is that it has a right to be heard — and we have a right to consider it without censorship.

The silencing of climate skeptics is a test case for the health of our republic. If we no longer allow dissent, then we have traded liberty for conformity. If only approved voices may speak, then we are no longer America.

We must choose differently. Debate must be free. Truth must be tested. And conscience must never be canceled.



Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative,
non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



Subscribe

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.