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 **TODAY'S "QUICK HIT":**
THE CLIMATE
CHANGE DEBATE:
THAT MYSTERIOUS
AND ELUSIVE 97%!



By Stephen L. Bakke  December 26, 2016

Here's what provoked me:

A writer took off after climate change "skeptics," and much of her presentation was defended on the basis that there is a 97% consensus among scientists that human generation of greenhouse gases is the main cause of global warming. Before anyone buys that conclusion, they should dig into the original sources of the "97% claim." I have done some research, so I submitted a brief summary of what I have found. For anyone interested in more information, there is a longer report with the same name, and roughly contemporary with this "quick hit," within the "Energy and Environment" tab on my website (<http://www.myslantonthings.com/>)

Here's my response:

The Climate Change Debate: That Mysterious and Elusive 97%!

A writer aggressively defended climate change doctrine in "There is no 'doubt' in real climate change research" on 12/21. She repeatedly referenced the "97-99%" consensus.

John Cook, with Global Change Institute, is credited as a source of the "97%." He claimed that over 97% of papers surveyed endorsed the view that human emissions of greenhouse gases are the main cause of global warming.

One independent review of Cook's findings found that almost 70% of the articles expressed no position on Cook's claims. Another review showed less than 2% of the articles agreed with Cook. In fact, over 99% of the sample didn't express an opinion that humans cause "most" warming. Investigative journalists at *Popular Technology* reported that some scientists included in Cook's review, reported their papers being falsely included in the 97%.

Another source for "97%" is a 2008 study by University of Illinois researchers. "Recognized earth scientists" were surveyed and 3,146 responded. Of those, the researchers chose only 79 responses – those found in peer reviewed journals. That means 98% of these "recognized scientists" were ignored!

I think Albert Einstein had so-called "settled science" claims in mind when he said: "The important thing is not to stop questioning."