

SALLY COSTELLA

Senate Candidate for Tasmania

THE CLIMATE SCEPTICS PARTY

sallycostella[REDACTED].com costella@[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]
BY EMAIL: [REDACTED]

1 August 2010

Re: Election 2010

Dear Ms. [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email of 31 July 2010, seeking my opinion on a variety of issues.

As you note, Health is an area that has primarily been a State responsibility, although in recent years the balance has begun shifting towards majority Commonwealth funding, with consequent relevance should I be elected as a Senator for Tasmania.

As you well note, the key to the health of our Health system is adequate funding. It is for this reason that The Climate Sceptics Party seeks to ensure that billions of dollars of taxpayer funds are not squandered on fruitless programmes based on the discredited science of man-made global warming, but rather redirected to areas such as Health that are in such desperate need.

Having said that, The Climate Sceptics Party does not have predetermined policies on Health, nor on some of the other issues that you raise, such as cigarettes and paid maternity leave. In such cases, candidates from our Party that are successful in being elected to Parliament have three guiding principles:

1. Obtain the best possible scientific evidence.
2. Ensure that the views of ordinary Australians are sought and heeded.

3. Allow our Members of Parliament to facilitate or lead the public debate, regardless of any differences of opinion they may have.

Having said that, I am happy to provide my own personal opinions on the three issues you raise. As noted above, these do not necessarily represent the views of The Climate Sceptics Party or any of its endorsed candidates.

On the issue of cigarettes, the scientific evidence is indisputable. How to best balance the rights and needs of all Australians within a finite Health budget is an enormously complicated question, but, if elected as Senator for Tasmania, I would welcome the opportunity to debate any proposed Bills on the issue on the floor of the Senate.

Paid maternity leave is also an enormously complicated issue. I believe that everything practicable should be done to ensure that as many parents as possible—both mothers and fathers—be financially capable of spending as many as possible of the first precious months of their babies' lives with them. But this must be balanced against any consequent burden placed on taxpayers and business. Finding a balance that is fair for all Australian families, workers and businesses is an intricate question.

The remaining two issues you raise, nuclear power and renewable energy, are closer to the core policies of The Climate Sceptics Party, although again the party has no definitive policies. I therefore again give you my opinions.

Nuclear power has its benefits and its risks. In a country like Australia, where we have centuries worth of clean coal energy available to us, the incentive to turn to nuclear energy is diminished. However, if elected as a Senator for Tasmania, I would be happy to investigate the issue in greater detail in Parliament.

Renewable energy is wonderful where it is economically and environmentally feasible to harvest it, and Tasmania is a proud world leader in this field. Investment in research and development into renewable energy has its place, but the burden to taxpayers should not be out of proportion to the potential benefits. I certainly oppose any squandering of billions of taxpayer dollars on the basis of discredited global warming scare campaigns.

Again, I thank you for seeking my views on these important issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Sally Costella.

Sally Costella