

## Cheney's 1% Principle applied to Climate Change

In 2001 then Vice President Cheney voiced this principle in dealing with a potential national emergency involving al-Queda: “If there’s a 1% chance that Pakistani scientists are helping al-Queda build or develop a nuclear weapon, then we have to treat it as a certainty in terms of our response.” Cheney's principle should hold today with respect to climate change, namely: “If there is a 1% chance that human activity is affecting climate change, then we have to treat it as a certainty in terms of our response.” And if later we should discover that human activity does not affect the climate and there was nothing we needed to do, then we will still end up with cleaner air and water, and that will show our children and grandchildren that we value their welfare and happiness at least as much as our own.

**Note:** I have just realized (8/27/20) that Thomas Friedman of *The New York Times* has already reported this fact in an [essay](#) on Cheney and climate change.

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