

MILLERCOMM2024

CAS

Center for
Advanced
Study

Naomi Oreskes

Henry Charles Lea Professor of
the History of Science
Harvard University

Monday
October 2, 2023
4:00 pm

Knight Auditorium
Spurlock Museum
600 South Gregory, Urbana
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

HOW THE MYTH OF THE FREE MARKET HAS **Blocked** Climate Action

In 1988, American climate modeler James Hansen testified in the US Congress that he and his team were 99% certain that man-made global warming was underway. Hansen's testimony reflected decades of sustained scientific work predicting that burning fossil fuels would cause climate change. This testimony was widely reported, the science was clear, and political leaders had made a commitment to act. So, what happened? Why didn't we act when there was still a chance to stop climate change before it became the climate crisis?

A major part of the answer involves the role of corporate America in promoting the myth of the "free market" to prevent government regulation of dangerous practices and products, including fossil fuels. Professor Oreskes argues that, to address the climate crisis at the necessary scale and rate, we must reject that myth and re-embrace the essential role of governments in addressing market failure.

The Literary (122 N. Neil, Champaign) will host an author's event for Professor Oreskes on Sunday, October 1, 4:30pm.

HOSTED BY:

Department of Atmospheric Sciences

IN CONJUNCTION WITH:

Certificate in Environmental Writing
Program (ISEE)
Department of Civil & Environmental
Engineering
Department of History
Department of Physics
School of Earth, Society & Environment
Spurlock Museum

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