

## Statement of Support for the Ackerman-Munitz Article

Richard Tol has repeatedly questioned the merits and legitimacy of a recent journal article, “Climate Damages in the FUND Model: A Disaggregated Analysis,” by Frank Ackerman and Charles Munitz (Ecological Economics, May 2012).

We affirm that

1. The Ackerman-Munitz article was published in an established, peer-reviewed journal, and falls well within the boundaries of normal scientific analysis and academic debate.
2. The article makes a valuable contribution to the understanding of the economics of climate change.
3. The article contains valuable insights into the assumptions and workings of the FUND model.
4. The type of detailed review offered by Ackerman and Munitz is important for understanding and improving complex economic and environmental models in general.
5. The work done by Ackerman and Munitz in this article should be encouraged rather than discouraged by scholars interested in economic aspects of climate change.

We urge other researchers to conduct similar analyses, for FUND and for other complex models in this area.

Above all, we urge scholars with criticisms of each other’s work to pursue them through the normal channels of academic debate. If you doubt another researcher’s results, try to replicate the analysis, and then publish your findings. If you don’t like a published article, publish a better one.

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