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WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE 43RD CUSLI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Speaker: Stephen J. Petras Jr.

DEAN SCHARF: All right. Good morning, everybody, if you will take your seats. We will go ahead and get started. Okay.

Well, hello, everybody. If you don't know me, I am Michael Scharf. I am the Co-dean of Case Western Reserve University School of Law. We are one of the two partnership schools along with Western Ontario that make up the Canada-US Law Institute, and you are going to meet today several of the people whose time and energy is well spent putting together this conference and the other activities of the center.

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to a spring day in Cleveland as we look out the window and see the snow falling here in the beautiful botanical garden. And one of the things I do tell students when I am recruiting from Arizona and California to come to Cleveland, I say, you know, in Cleveland when it is cold, we just cross the street, and we go to Costa Rica.

And that's because the Botanical Garden has a giant Costa Rica biosphere, and you are invited today -- the building is completely closed off except for you, and you all are invited at any time to explore the Madagascar spiny desert, the Costa Rica biosphere, and the theme that they are building today is Butterflies, and you will see many butterflies in there.

Now, butterflies are not going to exist much longer if international global climate change continues unabated. And that's the real reason we are all here at the conference today to talk about the what the two countries, Canada and the United States, can do to try to hold off climate change and to respond to its ravaging effects in both countries and around the world.

We have an amazing panel set up for you today. It is going to be a fantastic conference today. And one of the most important things about this conference is the ability for people to network, to get to know each other, you get to know Canadians, Americans, business people, government people, academics, we are all here sharing one experience.

So without further ado, I will ring Henry King's famous bell that has been rung for 43 years at the start of every Canada-US Law Institute and call the conference to order.

(Bell being rung.)

Dean SCHARF: Okay. Let me turn things over to Steve Petras.

MR. PETRAS: Thank you, Michael.

Thank you for opening our 43rd Annual Conference of the Canada-United States Law Institute. Welcome, everyone, here to the Botanical Garden, a perfect setting for a discussion on climate change

So what we are going to do, we are going to get right into the program now. At our luncheon program, we are going to have an introduction of our executive committee and of the other people who make the Canada-US Law Institute work.

But right now we are going to jump right into the program. So in putting together this conference, we thought it would be very important to set the stage with the science, you know, with the facts.

What are we talking about? What is climate change really? What's physically going to happen in the United States and Canada that we need to deal with? So we looked around to find who is the right person, who can tell us about this, and we actually hit an absolute grand slam home run because we have with us today Dr. Eugene Takle.

He is the Emeritus Professor of Agronomy in the Department of Geology and Atmospheric Science at Iowa State University. He is an undergraduate in physics, and he is also a Ph.D. in physics, and then he started focusing on climate -- climatology.

And interestingly enough, he is the founding member of the multi-institutional multinational team that has assessed the future of climates in the United States and in Canada, and he did this together with Iowa State, a number of other institutions, including the University of Quebec and Montreal. Okay?

Interestingly enough, all of you have probably heard about the 2018 National Climate Assessment, which is published by the U.S. government as a statement about the situation and facts of the climate. It was a very infamous document this past year because our present Administration didn't like it that much, was very critical.

Well, Dr. Eugene Takle is one of the co-authors of that study, so he is not only a person who has assessed the impact of climate change on Canada and the United States, he organized the teams to do this investigation, he is also an author of that national study and statement on the climate of the United States and Canada.

So without further ado, Dr. Takle, the conference is yours.

(Applause.)