

I said - They said

As chairman of the National Clean Air Coalition, which published a report on acidity in rainfall over much of the 13-state area of the South being 10 to 20 times more acidic than normal rainfall, I said:

"Today's report shows that the South is on the verge of an acid rain crisis. The same pattern of acidification that has caused major resource damage in the Northern United States and Canada is now emerging in the South." As reported in the NYT, I added that the report was not intended to influence Congress on legislation but to educate Southerners.

They said: "The report is another example of the politics of fear," the president of Edison Electric Institute said.

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I said: "Bush came in and said, 'I'm the environmentalist in this [1988] campaign,' and I thought it was a tremendous amount of cheek. And yet he's continued to say it. Campaign's over, and he's saying it. But he has yet to demonstrate that he's an environmentalist. I think the real demonstration will be when he takes an issue like the Clean Air Act, the outer limits of a major effort that's where the interests of many of his traditional allies in the oil industry and the chemical industry are in opposition to those of public health and the environment. When he takes that kind of an issue and comes in on the side of environment and public health, then I think he'll be entitled to say, 'I'm the environmental President.' "

They said: I think he had some very, very clever rhetoric, and I don't think it locked him into anything," said William Megonnell, director of legislative affairs-environment for the Edison Electric Institute.

