

# Tucson Citizen

## Four UA professors help sway U.S. high court on global warming

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Four University of Arizona professors offered their opinions in what is being called a milestone U. S. Supreme Court case on climate change.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts et al. v. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency involved multiple states, though not Arizona, suing the EPA on grounds that the agency failed to regulate motor vehicle carbon dioxide emissions under the Clean Air Act.

The Supreme Court on Monday ruled 5-4 in favor of the 11 states, using the 36-page "friend of the court" brief that the UA professors and more than a dozen others wrote, according to a statement by one of the researchers.

"This ruling is a victory for climate science," UA ecologist Scott Saleska said in a statement.

Saleska brought together the UA professors, other experts and federal scientists from around the nation to write the brief, which was filed in the fall.

"EPA ignored what is perhaps the most important finding in climate science in the last decade," said Saleska, an ecology and evolutionary biology professor.

The majority opinion, written by Justice John Paul Stevens, found that rising global temperatures and the seemingly human-caused increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere are linked, he said.

Other UA professors involved were:

- Jonathan T. Overpeck, a geosciences professor who directs UA's Institute for the Study of Planet Earth.

