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PRESENTS

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**TITLE: CLIMATE INTERVENTION:
A LAST RESORT?**

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RION BALLROOM-REITZ UNION

RECENTLY A PANEL OF THE US NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES CONSIDERED THE QUESTION: DO WE HAVE OTHER OPTIONS IF WE WAIT TOO LONG TO CURB OUR RELEASE OF GREENHOUSE GASES AND ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE PROVES IMPOSSIBLE? TWO ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES WERE ASSESSED FOR THEIR FEASIBILITY AND RISKS: ARTIFICIALLY ALTERING THE AMOUNT OF SUNLIGHT REACHING THE EARTH'S SURFACE (ALBEDO MODIFICATION) AND CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL (FOLLOWED BY SEQUESTRATION). THE MAIN CONCLUSION OF THE PANEL IS THAT THERE IS NO "SILVER BULLET." MITIGATION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AS THE LOWEST COST AND LOWEST RISK SOLUTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE. AS A CLASS, CARBON DIOXIDE REMOVAL METHODS WORK SLOWLY, ARE DIFFICULT TO SCALE TO THE PROBLEM AT HAND, ARE EXPENSIVE, BUT DO ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE (EXCESS CO₂). ON THE OTHER HAND, ALBEDO MODIFICATION APPROACHES AS A CLASS WORK QUICKLY AND ARE RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE, BUT CARRY BOTH KNOWN AND POORLY KNOWN RISKS AND DO NOT ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

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