



## **EYE ON THE INDUSTRY**

**Monthly Notes on Issues  
Affecting Wisconsin Consumers**

**Global flatness** could be the next worry for folks hot to regulate carbon dioxide.... Britain's **University of East Anglia Climate Research Unit** points out global average temperatures have been flat—actually showing a statistically insignificant *cooling* trend—since 1998, contrary to incessant scare headlines. **Who pays?** Wisconsin Public Service Commission hopes to find out, with an investigation of the impact high **rail shipping rates** have on the state's economy. Power plant fuel isn't the only commodity involved; **paper, timber, fertilizer, chemicals, and** anything hauled in bulk are affected along with the price of electricity. **Still shrinking....** The electric restructuring movement's biggest success story, **Pennsylvania**, sees provider shopping by residential customers dwindle to 166,000 households at the beginning of '06, down from almost 800,000 in April '01. Pro-restructuring commentators blame state **regulators**, who, under **deregulation** (?), set prices too low for competitors to beat, which sounds like a problem for producers, not consumers, at least for now.