

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

June 30, 2003

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

We are deeply concerned about the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently issued Report on the Environment because of accounts that the White House decided to delete critical sections relating to climate change from the draft released on June 23, 2003. We would like to know what specific sections were taken out and why. We also urge you to request the EPA allow a formal public comment process of no less than 120 days on this draft and mandate they issue a final report no later than January 1, 2004. And finally, we ask you to commission the incoming EPA administrator to include a detailed section on global climate change in this final report.

According to an internal memo, many EPA staff members expressed their concern about deletions made from the final report, saying it "...no longer accurately represents scientific consensus on climate change." It is our understanding that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) specifically removed a reference and a graphic to a 1999 study showing global temperatures had risen sharply in the past decade compared with the previous 1,000 years.

The internal memo also indicates that a National Research Council (NRC) finding that suggested recent climate warming was unusual and likely due to human activities was deleted. This NRC report was commissioned by the White House in 2001.

To date, it appears the EPA and White House has taken a hands-off approach to the issue of climate change. After casting-off the Kyoto Treaty two years ago, your Administration has not offered an alternative. Last September, the EPA issued an annual report on air pollution. For the previous six years, the report contained a section on our

climate. Last September, the report was released without a climate section after a White House appointee deleted it. Finally, one year ago the EPA sent a report to the United Nations that pointed to “human activity” as a real cause of the greenhouse effect. You dismissed this report by saying you “...read the report put out by the bureaucracy.”

If true, the internal EPA memo clearly puts the credibility of the agency at risk. We realize global climate change is a complex issue, but we feel scientific data should not be suppressed, disregarded, or distorted for political purposes. American citizens depend on the EPA and White House to make certain the air they breathe, water they drink, and environment they enjoy is safe. Communities should feel confident in the science the EPA uses to make decisions that affect their health and safety.

In closing, we hope that you will make every effort to boost the public credibility of the EPA. Providing us with a list of the climate change sections that were deleted and the reasons for their deletions is a good start. Moreover, we urge you to request the EPA provide a formal public comment process of at least 120 days and mandate the agency release a final draft no later than January 1, 2004. And finally, we ask you to commission the incoming EPA administrator to issue a detailed section within the final report on global climate change and how it is affecting the environment we live in.

Sincerely,

Tammy Baldwin
Member of Congress

Neil Abercrombie
Member of Congress

Tom Allen
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress

Brad Carson
Member of Congress

Ed Case

John Conyers, Jr.

Member of Congress

William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Barney Frank
Member of Congress

Rush D. Holt
Member of Congress

Jay Inslee
Member of Congress

Dale E. Kildee
Member of Congress

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Lane Evans
Member of Congress

Martin Frost
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Jim McDermott
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
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Michael R. McNulty
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Adam B. Schiff
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Ellen O. Tauscher
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Henry Waxman
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Robert Wexler
Member of Congress

