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Dear Colleague - UNCED [United Nations Conference on Environment and Development], UNCHE
[United Nations Conference on the Human Environment] - Sweden

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you addressed the leaders of many nations assembled at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, you declared: "As important as the road to Rio has been, what is more important is the road from Rio." We welcome your commitment to the UNCEDs accomplishments, and we look forward to working with you to ensure their implementation.

With the UNCED now behind us, we believe that it is necessary for the United States to build on the feeling of global cooperation which has grown as a result of the conference and to take the initiative in leading the world community in conserving and restoring the global environment. The July Group of Seven (G-7) Economic Summit in Munich is a significant opportunity for the world community to move forward on the progress begun in Rio.

While the depth and breadth of environmental problems facing the world today is daunting, certain topics are especially pressing and deserving of the immediate attention of the G-7. The issues of climate change, the institutional follow-up to Rio, population growth, energy production and use in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, conservation of forests and preservation of biodiversity, ocean resources, trade policy, the role of and need for reform in the Bretten Woods Institutions, and economic policy all involve serious environmental concerns which the G-7 should address.

Climate Change

We welcome your commitment, announced by EPA Administrator Bill Reilly in Rio, to transmit the Climate Change Convention to the Senate for advice and consent to ratification as soon as possible. We urge you to encourage our G-7 partners similarly to move rapidly in ratifying the Convention.

We also welcome your call for the preparation, by January 1, 1993, of action plans to implement the specific commitments in the Convention. We support accelerated development of measures by the G-7 to meet the treaty's provisions. At the same time, however, we feel strongly that there should be an effective, verifiable and publicly accessible domestic process for developing, reviewing and commenting on the plans and implementing treaty commitments to limit carbon

dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. We look forward to working with you in designing and implementing an effective process and in producing a strong and effective climate change action plan.

Finally, as part of a prompt start to the Climate Convention, we also believe that the G-7 should commit to a continuing process of follow-up in the period before entry into force and after the meeting this fall of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. The follow up should be designed, at least in part, to accelerate the negotiation of a protocol to the convention that will better ensure that meaningful reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are achieved in the near future.

The Sustainable Development Commission

The institutional recommendations of Agenda 21 are particularly important in ensuring that the broad objectives of the Rio Earth Summit are actually met. Specifically, the proposed creation of the sustainable development commission should provide an important vehicle for ensuring follow-up to Rio. We feel strongly that the G-7 should endorse the creation of the commission by the United Nations General Assembly this fall and work to ensure that it is endowed with the substantive powers necessary effectively to monitor the performance of international institutions, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and of national governments, in meeting UNCED goals. These powers should also include appropriate high level representation reflecting the full balance of environmental and economic policies while providing opportunity for public access and input into the process. Finally, we believe that the G-7 countries should commit to the establishment of domestic mechanisms that will evaluate national performance in the follow-up to UNCED. We look forward to working with you to develop such a mechanism to coordinate US efforts, and hope that you will take the lead in urging our G-7 partners to undertake similar measures within their own governments.

Population

In view of the 1994 Conference on Population and Development, the UNCED did not comprehensively address the population issue. However, it was widely noted at the UNCED that the issue of population must be integrated into environment and development goals. We urge you to encourage the G-7 nations to significantly increase commitments to voluntary international family planning assistance programs, and corresponding efforts to improve the status of women, improve maternal and child health programs and provide universal educational opportunity. Specifically, we hope that you and your negotiators will encourage the G-7 to support and heighten attention to the preparations for the 1994 Conference.

Eastern Europe and the States of the Former Soviet Union

As you know, many Eastern European nations are facing severe environmental problems as a result of years of neglecting the environment and mismanaging economic systems. Most pressing is the condition of an extensive and antiquated network of nuclear power plants -- many with design features similar to the Chernobyl reactor. The UNCED recommended the development of an international nuclear reactor safety convention and the Munich Summit could lay the foundation to follow-up on that recommendation. However, immediate steps must be taken to protect human health and the environment. Measures that could be taken include the retrofitting of plants and training of personnel as well as the decommissioning of plants and addressing energy needs through other means, such as energy conservation and increased energy efficiency. Along these lines, we urge you to press for concerted efforts aggressively to improve the efficiency of energy use. Finally, the G-7 should recognize the tremendous opportunity to reduce methane emissions -- a potent greenhouse gas -- from the old and leaky network of natural gas pipelines in Eastern Europe. There is an enormous potential to stem emissions by working with other nations to reduce seepage from these pipelines. We urge you to take the lead in this effort.

Forests

We applaud your efforts to launch a global forestry initiative. In particular, we look forward to supporting your pledge to increase U.S. international forestry programs to \$270 million per year and to work with other nations in doubling their spending on forest conservation programs -- with the goal of a global total of \$2.7 billion annually. It is imperative, however, that any new financial resources be utilized in the most productive fashion. Therefore, any future forestry aid must be built on the experience of past projects and initiatives -- such as the Tropical Forestry Action Plan -- which have failed to address the root causes of deforestation. We must ensure that funds are more wisely spent. Additional forest assistance should be coupled with reform of policies and incentives in both developed and developing countries that lead to deforestation, while special attention is paid to problems of land tenure and the needs of local communities in developing countries.

Finally, we recognize that, for the initiative to be successful, we must ensure that our own forest management practices are based on sound ecological principles. The Forest Service's recent proposal to phaseout clear-cutting on national forests is a positive step forward. We must build on that first step in improving management practices by strengthening the proposal particularly with respect to mature, old-growth forests, while also reinforcing the necessary integration of

sound economic and environmental policy by eliminating wasteful spending of taxpayer monies on below-cost timber sales.

Biodiversity

We would strongly urge that the United States pursue every opportunity to join the Biodiversity Convention process and eventually sign and ratify the treaty. We believe that, in the long run, US interests will better be served if we remain engaged in this process.

We also believe that it is imperative that the G-7 support the identification and protection of critical ecosystems and assist developing countries in their management and conservation. Toward that end, we welcome your proposal to convene a meeting of experts in the fall as the first step in an international collaborative effort. Because of the many and diverse considerations that must be brought to bear in designing effective strategies to protect biodiversity, we would urge that a broad range of disciplines, including the social and cultural disciplines, be represented at that meeting.

Oceans

Agenda 21 specifically calls for an international conference on land-based sources of marine pollution. The G-7 should strongly endorse the conference and establish a definite, substantive agenda to reduce land-based sources of marine pollution, including a possible global legal instrument. We also urge you to work with the other G-7 leaders in addressing the problem of radioactive contamination of the oceans, including contamination from leaking land-based sources.

Trade

The interrelationship between trade, development and environment was prominently recognized throughout the UNCED process and at the Earth Summit. Integrating these complex issues will be a major challenge for all nations on the road from Rio.

In keeping with the 1989 Paris Summit declaration to further the OECD work on "integrating environment and economic decision-making", we urge the G-7 to press the OECD, through the Joint Experts Meeting On Trade and the Environment, to develop guiding principles on trade and the environment at the earliest possible date. In addition, the US should lead the G-7 in encouraging the work of the recently convened GATT working Group on Environmental Measures and International Trade. Trade and the environment must be made mutually

supportive. Toward that end, we support efforts successfully to conclude the Uruguay Round of trade talks and we urge you to encourage your G-7 partners to begin working now to organize a round of GATT talks devoted exclusively to reconciling the global trading system with environmental concerns.

The Multilateral Development Banks

One result of UNCED has been the emergence of the World Bank as a major vehicle for the investment of environmental funds in the developing world. Additionally, the Global Environment Facility has received a great deal of attention as a mechanism to implement the climate and biodiversity treaties and portions of Agenda 21. While we are encouraged by new Bank policy statements on the environment in general and on the energy and fuel sectors in particular, the Bank's record in these areas has, to date, been questionable. We encourage you and the other G-7 leaders to press the multilateral development banks to improve project quality and increase public accessibility to bank project information as well as public participation in bank project decisions.

Economic Policy

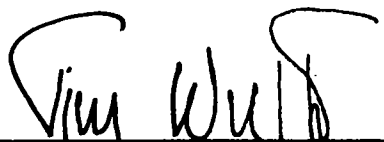
One important lesson that has emerged from the UNCED process is that sound environmental policies are also beneficial to the economy. However, reforms are required in industrialized as well as developing nations to achieve the goal of sustainable development. In this regard, the G-7 should undertake efforts to ensure that markets give the right signals and that the price of goods and services accurately reflect their environmental costs. In addition to undertaking domestic efforts toward this end, we would urge the G-7 to support and accelerate efforts to secure similar reforms in the United Nations System of National Accounts.

While moving forward on the agreements reached at Rio, we believe that it is also important for the G-7 leaders to continue to pursue worthy commitments made in prior Summit declarations. Previous declarations have emphasized several environmental concerns, including the need to implement full cost pricing of energy, improve energy efficiency, and combat desertification. The Munich Summit presents an opportunity for the G-7 to examine progress in all of these areas and to commit to undertaking further efforts to address these concerns.

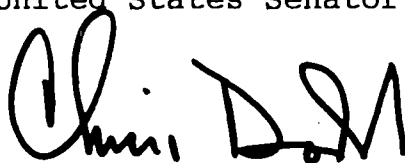
The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development has offered our world an opportunity to begin addressing the problems of the global environment and better to address pressing human needs. The United States' leadership is vital for the effective implementation of the agreements reached at Rio. We urge you to work

with the leaders of the other G-7 to achieve substantive progress in the areas detailed above.

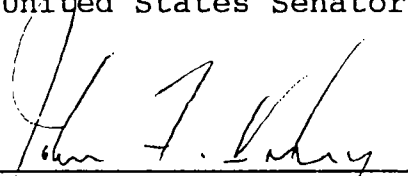
Sincerely,



Timothy Wirth
United States Senator



Christopher Dodd
United States Senator



John F. Kerry
United States Senator



Barbara Mikulski
United States Senator



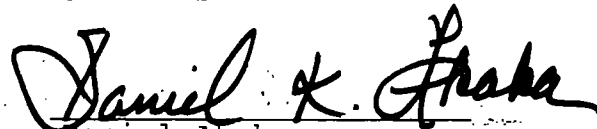
Albert Gore, Jr.
United States Senator



John H. Chafee
United States Senator



Joseph Lieberman
United States Senator



Daniel Akaka
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 17, 1991

Dear Colleague:

In 1972, the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment was held in Stockholm, Sweden. The Conference was a turning point in raising awareness about pollution threats. The Conference led to the creation of agencies in many countries with mandates similar to that of our Environmental Protection Agency. Twenty years later, nations are coming together again to further the global environmental agenda.

The United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) will take place in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, in June, 1992. Representatives and leaders from over 160 nations will come together to address global environmental matters. This meeting offers the United States an unprecedented opportunity to display world leadership on environmental concerns.

We are writing to the President to urge him to take full advantage of the opportunities that UNCED presents. The time frame between now and UNCED is limited and the amount of work that needs to be accomplished to make the Conference meaningful is tremendous. In addition, there has been a recent growing perception that the United States has not provided sufficient world leadership on environmental matters. The role that the United States plays in the meetings leading up to the Conference and the Conference itself will be critical to its success. To ensure a successful "Earth Summit," we are asking the President to make UNCED an immediate priority, and to exert the necessary leadership at both the preparatory meetings and the Conference to move toward an economically prosperous and environmentally sustainable world.

We urge you to join with us in signing this letter to the President concerning the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development. If you have any questions please contact Sally Yozell, at 4-2742.

Sincerely,

Bob Kasten

John F. Kerry

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 15, 1991

The Hon. George Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) will take place in Rio De Janeiro in June, 1992. As preparations for UNCED intensify, and as the third preparatory committee meeting for the Conference in August draws near, the position of the United States on the global environmental issues being taken up at the Conference becomes ever more critical to its success. Representatives and leaders from over 160 nations will gather in Rio de Janeiro in what promises to be the largest international conference ever held. This meeting holds tremendous opportunities for the United States to distinguish itself as a world leader on environmental concerns. We are writing to urge you to take an active leadership role at the conference and take full advantage of the opportunities UNCED offers to move forth toward an economically prosperous and environmentally sustainable world.

We commend the United States for the highly professional efforts underway to prepare for the Conference. However, we are deeply concerned over the growing impression that the United States is reluctant to grapple with the major environmental issues that will be in the forefront of discussion at UNCED. The United States is not perceived as providing leadership; worse, we have been criticized by some as projecting a negative image with regard to the global environment. This is unfortunate because it is clear that the United States is doing as much, if not more, than most nations in dealing with our own environmental problems.

We have an unmatched park system, and our laws governing clean air, clean water, and toxic waste are models for many other nations. We spend vast sums to research climate change, and we fund the development of new pollution abatement techniques. Our extensive expertise can benefit many nations throughout the world.

Unilateral decisions regarding our environment can no longer be considered the cornerstone of global environmental policy. Much as a world effort was needed during the Persian Gulf war, policies and decisions regarding the global environment require international cooperation and attention to be successful in achieving their

objective. It is clear that a healthy, global ecosystem is a necessary precursor to a strong world economy, to improved social conditions, and to a politically stable world -- all elements of what properly can be termed "a new world order." The United States cannot stand apart from these challenges, but in fact must exert effective leadership at UNCED.

UNCED will be a critical milestone on the road to achieving a new environmental world order. However, it is clear that a meeting of 160 nations will produce calls for change. In order to move from unsustainable environmental practices to those that are more benign, all nations from around the globe will have to work together. It is essential for us to begin to take the necessary corrective steps now; the alternative is to be forced to take more painful remedial action later.

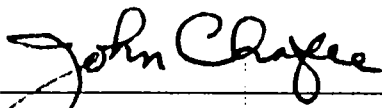
At the Conference next June, the nations of the world will consider possible treaties and agreements on principles to protect the global climate, conserve the world's biological diversity, manage the forests of the world, as well as address the need to develop more benign industrial technologies and sustainable agricultural practices. The United States must take a positive leadership role in these considerations.

These environmental concerns are not caused by any single nation, but result from the contribution of all. Their solutions therefore lie in reaching a series of collective agreements. Cooperation and discussions to achieve such agreements between the developed OECD nations and those that are less advanced industrially must move quickly because the task of achieving a consensus package of solutions by next year's Conference is so large. The time is short. But the opportunity for the United States to move this process in the right direction is readily available.

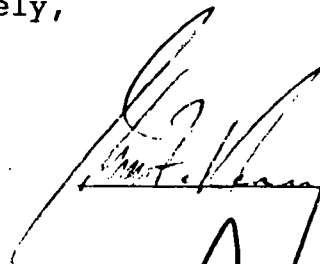
The United States has the moral, economic, and political strength to make UNCED the beginning of a truly global effort to preserve our environmental future. We urge you to give UNCED a high priority on your agenda. Without such immediate leadership action we stand to lose both the opportunity that UNCED presents and the goodwill of the many nations which look to America for leadership.

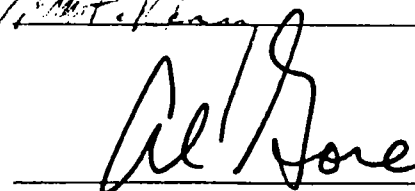
We look forward to working with you to make UNCED a success.

Sincerely,

Chafee


Kasten

Long

Gore

Durenburger

The Honorable George Bush
July 15, 1991
Page Three

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Brady

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Dodd