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OA/ID Number: 2615
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Folder Title:
Ozone Fund Dear Colleague

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An Environmental Feat

GETTING 92 governments to agree on anything, let alone on an environmental rule affecting dozens of industries, surely ranks as one of the more improbable feats of the season. But it happened last week in London, where they set a total ban on chlorofluorocarbons. At first the White House refused to join it, but to his great credit, President Bush changed his mind. The reasons for this extraordinary success deserve careful attention, for other kinds of environmental protection are going to require similar international consensus.

Three years ago in the Montreal Protocol the industrial countries committed themselves to cut the use of chlorofluorocarbons—CFCs—in half by 1998. Since then an inundation of extremely ominous data has warned that the Montreal schedule wasn't fast enough and didn't include enough of the world. At London the rich countries committed themselves to a total ban by the year 2000 and the poor ones by a decade later. Both, incidentally, have the ability to achieve the ban well ahead of those deadlines and ought to push along faster. Under the agreement, the rich countries will also provide the technology and money to help the poor countries adapt. India and China are apparently going to ratify the agreement, immensely expanding its scope.

One ingredient of this achievement was good science. It was the discovery that CFCs had eaten a huge hole in the ozone layer over the Antarctic—with its implication of increased danger of skin cancers as the hole widened to more heavily populated parts of the planet—that forced the negotiations to speed up.

But there was another essential ingredient as well. Advancing technology provided less threatening substitutes for CFCs. For that, credit goes to the chemical industry in general and to Du Pont in particular. CFCs are widely used for refrigeration and many other things. At first it looked as though a ban would be immensely disruptive and costly. Now, thanks to much good work in the laboratory, it appears that the substitutes will be more efficient than the compounds they replace.

Global warming will probably be the next environmental question requiring this kind of worldwide answer. Once again, there will be progress only if there is a sound scientific base and only if there are substitute technologies that can reduce emissions of carbon dioxide without great impacts on standards of living. Getting 92 governments to agree on environmental action is never going to be simple. But the London agreement shows that it can be done—and done more effectively than most of the world thought possible.

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PRESERVATION



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUL 10 1990

Dear Senator Gore:

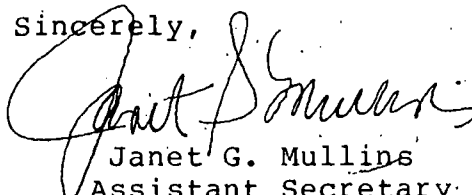
Thank you for your letter urging support for an international fund to assist developing countries to meet their obligations to phase-out use of ozone depleting substances.

Last week in London we agreed with other parties to the Montreal Protocol to the establishment of such a fund. It will be financed in the amount of \$160 million for the first three years -- \$240 million if India and China join the Protocol -- from voluntary contributions based on the U.N. scale of assessments. You should know that representatives of both India and China announced last week that they will recommend adherence to the Protocol by their respective governments. The U.S. share of the fund would then be \$40-60 million.

The fund is to be administered by the World Bank, with oversight provided by an Executive Committee comprised of seven developed and seven developing parties to the Protocol. The Government of Canada has offered Montreal as the location for the Executive Committee's Secretariat, and for a clearinghouse mechanism that was also agreed to last week in the course of negotiations to tighten and extend controls on ozone depleting substances.

More details on last week's changes to the Montreal Protocol can be found in the attached fact sheet.

Sincerely,


Janet G. Mullins
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable
Albert Gore, Jr.,
United States Senate.

Attachment



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FACT SHEET: Montreal Protocol Amendments

The London Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol successfully concluded late Friday night with the unanimous adoption of substantially tighter controls on ozone-depleting chemicals and the establishment of a financial mechanism to support the participation of developing countries. In the major development of the meeting, both India and China indicated in their final statements that they would join the 59 countries already Parties to the Protocol as soon as possible.

The Montreal Protocol, which had been first signed in September 1987, called for a fifty percent reduction in CFCs and a freeze on halons. The London amendments call for phasing out CFCs and halons (except for essential uses) by 2000. Carbon tetrachloride and methyl chloroform were also added to the list of ozone-depleting chemicals covered by the agreement and will be phased out by 2000 and 2005, respectively.

The financial mechanism established at the London meeting will provide between \$160-240 million over the initial three period to provide support for efforts to reduce the use of ozone-depleting substances (e.g., recycling, product substitution, etc.) by developing countries who are Parties to the Protocol. The United States is one of 7 developed and 7 developing countries who were appointed to an Executive Committee to oversee the development and management of the fund on behalf of the Parties.

The U.S. delegation, headed by EPA Administrator William Reilly, was one of 93 countries represented at the meeting.

In a related matter, the governments of Egypt and Mexico presented case studies on the costs of phasing-out ozone-depleting chemicals. These reports offer a blueprint for other developing countries showing the technical options for transitioning away from chemicals restricted under the Protocol. EPA cooperated on these two studies by providing technical experts. These studies, along with similar studies by other developing nations, were used as the basis for calculating the initial three year budget for the financial mechanism agreed to in London.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510
June 4, 1990

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It is on this last issue that President Bush refused to cooperate with the world community, and in so doing, he threatens to undermine the single most important international agreement that we have to protect the world's environment.

This legislation provides the U.S. contribution for that assistance and, therefore, corrects what many Americans feel was a grave mistake on the part of President Bush. In addition to providing the U.S. contribution to the account established by the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, some of the funds may, in the early years, be passed through to the EPA for the purpose of providing direct bilateral assistance to developing nations in order to help them acquire ozone-safe chemicals and technologies.

The Administration's footdragging is becoming a serious embarrassment. There is absolutely no uncertainty in our understanding of the threat to the ozone layer, and the serious implications of increased ultraviolet radiation for all life on this planet. In country after country, policymakers and

scientists, and government leaders recognize that we need to take action now. If you would like to co-sponsor S.2666, please have your staff call Rick Adcock in Senator Gore's office, at 4-6458.

Sincerely,

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Patrick J. Leahy

Timothy E. Wirth

John F. Kerry

Max Baucus

Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Brock Adams

Alan Cranston

Dale Bumpers

Joseph I. Lieberman

Barbara A. Mikulski

Frank R. Lautenberg



J. Patrick Adcock
Legislative Assistant

Senator Albert Gore, Jr.
Tennessee

393 Russell Building
Washington, D. C. 20510
(202) 224-4944

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x Sent letter
George J. Mitchell

Patrick J. Leahy

Sent letter ✓ - Dussel
Timothy E. Wirth

Sent letter ✓ - Solly
John F. Kerry

x Sent letter
Max Baucus

Sent letter
Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Sent letter
Brock Adams

Sent letter S.148 ask for Jz.
Alan Cranston OK - clzira

Dale Bumpers

Joseph I. Lieberman

x Sent letter
Barbara A. Mikulski

x Sent
Frank R. Lautenberg



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Steve (sent) -
Claiborne Pell

Al Gore

Kate (sent) - ✓
George J. Mitchell

Eric (sent) - ✓
Patrick J. Leahy

David - ✓
Timothy E. Wirth

Sally - ✓
John F. Kerry

Joe (sent) -
Max Baucus

Jim ?
Joseph R. Biden, Jr.

Anne - ✓
Brock Adams

Cheryl - ✓
Alan Cranston

Dan (sent) - ✓
Dale Bumpers

Bill (sent) -
Joseph I. Lieberman

Carl (sent) - ✓
Barbara A. Mikulski

Ric (sent) - ✓
Frank R. Lautenberg

- ✓ BIDEN Jim Guthrie 221 Russell
45042
- ✓ CRANSTON Claire Thorne 112 Hart
48131 (new 5/18)
- ✓ KERRY Kelly Yo Zell 421 Russell YES
42741
- ✓ BAUCUS Joe Gaffman 407 Hart
45921
- ✓ WIRTH David Harwood 380 Russell YES
40500
- ✓ LAURENBERG Ric Erdheim 717 Hart
49731
- ✓ BRADLEY Gene Peters 731 Hart
43224 (new 5/18)
- ✓ ADAMS Anne Bradley 513 Hart
42621 (new 5/18)
- ✓ LEAHY Eric Nason ~~136~~ Dirksen YES
47284 (new 5/18)
- ✓ PELL Steve Polzsky YES
Peter Gelbrunn (new 5/18)
Tom Hughes

✓ MITCHELL Kafe Kimbell (new) 408 Hzt
43339 (5/18)

✓ LIEBERMAN Bill Bonvillian (new) 502 Hzt
49176 (5/18)

HOLLINGS

BUMPERS Dabrz Estes (Merrick) 229 Dinksen

SARBANES Charlie Stek

MIKULSKI Cyril Parker 320 Hzt
4-4654

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4202

June 11, 1990

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ATMOSPHERE

A Publication of Friends of the Earth International on Ozone Protection

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US Opposes Protocol Funding

Washington (FoE) - US government officials recently shocked the international community when they announced that the US opposes creation of a funding mechanism to help developing nations implement the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

Last May in Geneva, US delegates said existing aid institutions, in particular the World Bank, have sufficient resources to help developing countries make the transition to using ozone-safe technologies. A World Bank representative at the meeting, however, said that the lending institution does not currently have the money for such a program.

Developing nations, already burdened by large debts, maintain that grants, in addition to existing development aid, are a prerequisite for their participation in the protocol. Scientists say that unless all nations stop using ozone-destroying substances, the ozone layer will never recover.

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Nations Resist HCFC Action

Ottawa (FoE) - The revised Montreal Protocol is in danger of becoming all talk and no action with regard to ozone-destroying hydrochloroflourocarbons (HCFCs). Several governments are now advocating that the protocol include only a vague declaration of guidelines concerning the use of these interim substitutes for CFCs.

Support for such non-binding declarations indicates that many governments remain unwilling to regulate the production of these chemicals. The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) scientific panel has clearly stated that the production of HCFCs must be strictly regulated if the Antarctic ozone hole is to disappear.

Friends of the Earth (FoE) representatives have called the proposed declaration "totally unacceptable," saying that voluntary guidelines do not send a clear signal that these chemicals pose a serious threat to the ozone layer.

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