

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Council on Environmental Quality
Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 2899
FolderID:

Folder Title:
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for Convention on Climate Change

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	61	6	2	2

— *CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW* —
— *ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDY INSTITUTE* —
— *ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND — FRIENDS OF THE EARTH* —
— *GREENPEACE — NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY* —
— *NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL* —
— *SIERRA CLUB — UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS* —
— *U.S. PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP — WORLD WILDLIFE FUND* —

February 26, 1993

Dear Assistant Secretary Bohlen,

Reversing the Bush Administration's policies on climate change is one of the most important environmental issues facing the new Administration. Steps important to mitigate climate change are also important for the long-term economic and competitive health of this country.

The next session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Framework Convention on Climate Change (INC-7, March 15-20) represents a critical first opportunity for the U.S. to reclaim the mantle of leadership on this and other global environmental issues debated at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. At INC-7, we urge the Clinton Administration to:

- Announce that the United States does not consider the Bush Administration's "National Action Plan on Global Climate Change" (12/92) to be a final document, and that the U.S. intends to have a new draft ready by the first anniversary of the United States signature of the Convention at the Earth Summit last June.
- Announce that the new U.S. National Action Plan (NAP) will take a first step towards reductions under the treaty—by capping emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases at 1990 levels by the year 2000. The U.S. should call upon other industrialized countries to take similar actions.
- Call for the immediate commencement of negotiations to further reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from industrialized countries. These talks should have the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% from 1990 levels by the year 2005, and should proceed on an aggressive timetable. The European Community has already called for follow-on agreements.
- Take the lead in calling for reform of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), including an independent review of its performance and adoption of rules for public accountability as described in last year's foreign aid bill. This review should also include an analysis of alternatives for the financial mechanism, such as an approach modelled on the Montreal Protocol Fund.

Because of the limited time remaining before INC-7, we urge that the Administration announce a greenhouse gas emissions cap in March, along with its determination to develop measures and policies as part of its revised National Action Plan to implement this cap. A new set of mitigation measures should then be developed only after public comment on the Bush Administration's NAP is carefully reviewed. In the coming months, Federal agencies should take full advantage of public input to ensure that the revised U.S. NAP is a model of excellence, and a standard by which other nations' plans can be judged.

We wish to emphasize that when a package of new mitigation measures is issued, this effort must go beyond simply filling the discrepancy between an emissions cap and the Bush Administration's plan. After the emissions reductions *realistically achievable* from each measure are carefully reevaluated, it may become clear that the U.S. is further from its stabilization target than the Bush Administration's National Action Plan implies.

For example, EPA's voluntary "Green Programs," which play a central role in the Bush Administration's NAP, may have significantly lower near-term impacts than earlier estimates indicated. Implementation of these programs has been slow: today, they are budgeted at \$8 million and are implemented by a staff of just 35 people; fully funding these programs would require \$150 million annually. We applaud the Administration's proposal to include additional funding for the Green Programs in its economic stimulus package; however, the levels proposed are still below what would be necessary to achieve the large near-term environmental benefits projected in the Bush Administration's NAP. We request that any new plan for capping greenhouse gas emissions contain revised projections for the near-term effects of each program, as well as the budget and staffing levels required to achieve the projected results.

Finally, we would like to request that a member of the Climate Action Network-U.S. be accredited to the United States delegation to the March INC meeting, as well as to the Common Interest Group meeting which will precede it.

Thank you very much for your time, interest and assistance in these matters. We look forward to working closely with you on these and related issues in the future.

Sincerely,

Don Goldberg
Center for International Environmental Law

Carol Werner
Environmental and Energy Study Institute

Scott A. Hajost
Environmental Defense Fund

Liz Cook
Friends of the Earth

Steve Kretzmann
Greenpeace

Liz Raisbeck
National Audubon Society

Daniel Lashof
Natural Resources Defense Council

Daniel Becker
Sierra Club

Alden Meyer
Union of Concerned Scientists

Anna Aurilio
U.S. Public Interest Research Group

T.J. Glauthier
World Wildlife Fund

cc: Timothy E. Wirth
Kathleen McGinty
Hazel R. O'Leary
Carol M. Browner
John H. Gibbons
Eileen Claussen