

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: Office of Environmental Initiatives
Series/Staff Member: Angie Mizeur
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 19507
FolderID:

Folder Title:
[Climate Change] Letters Sent (General)

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	61	7	11	1

October 25, 1999

Dear Interested Party:

This week, delegates from the United States join representatives of more than 160 nations in Bonn, Germany, for the Fifth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on some of the efforts this Administration has under way to meet the challenge of global warming.

With strong leadership from President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the Administration is pursuing a sound, cost-effective strategy to protect our global environment while creating new opportunities for sustainable economic growth. The United States not only has played a pivotal role in shaping the international response to climate change, but also has launched major new efforts to reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions.

Recently, the President issued two Executive Orders that will achieve significant emissions reductions. One aims to facilitate the goal of tripling U.S. use of bio-energy and bio-products by 2010, cutting greenhouse gas emissions by up to 100 million tons a year -- the equivalent of taking more than 70 million cars off the road. The other directs agencies to improve energy efficiency in federal buildings by 35 percent by 2010, saving taxpayers more than \$750 million a year.

The President and Vice President, having secured a record \$1 billion last year for research and development of energy efficiency and clean energy technologies, are now fighting for additional increases in these vital federal investments. They are seeking \$1.4 billion for research and development in the new fiscal year, plus \$3.6 billion in tax credits over five years to promote broader use of renewable energy and the purchase of energy-efficient cars, homes, and appliances.

On the diplomatic front, U.S. leadership was critical to forging the Kyoto Protocol, a solid foundation for international efforts to address climate change. The United States is now working with other nations to resolve the critical issues of cost and developing country participation, so the treaty can be ratified. Our overarching goal in Bonn is to keep this process moving forward and achieve the kind of progress we need to ensure that we complete the important work begun in Kyoto.

In a recent address, President Clinton called on all nations to reject the outdated notion that environmental harm is a necessary consequence of economic outgrowth. "All of us, developed and developing countries alike, should take action now to halt global climate change," the President said. "Does this mean developing countries then must sacrifice growth to protect the environment? Absolutely not . . . The challenge and opportunity for developing countries is to

skip the cost of the Industrial Age by using technologies that improve the economy and the environment at the same time.”

Enclosed please find materials summarizing the ambitious climate change agenda to which the President and Vice President are so clearly committed. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Paul Bledsoe on my staff at (202) 395-2310. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Roger S. Ballentine
Deputy Assistant to the President
For Environmental Initiatives, and
White House Climate Change Coordinator

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 10, 1999

Editor

The New York Times

229 West 43rd Street

New York, N.Y. 10036

To the Editor:

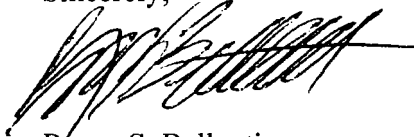
Bob Herbert deserves real credit for his recent columns dealing with the dangers of global warming, and especially for his call for greater political leadership. In fact, since 1993, President Clinton and Vice President Gore have proposed and implemented a series of common sense programs -- such as research on clean and efficient energy technologies, and innovative partnerships with industry -- to help reduce the likelihood of catastrophic global climate changes.

Unfortunately, the US Congress has not shown the type of leadership that Herbert (and the American people) are rightly calling for. For example, this year Congress has failed to enact important tax credits, such as those for consumers who buy energy efficient homes and cars or for energy produced from renewable resources. Further, Congress has refused to fund or has drastically cut budget requests the President has made to help develop a new generation of more energy efficient vehicles and for programs that promote even more promising technologies for renewable energy resources, including wind, solar and biomass.

Perhaps most disturbing, Republicans in Congress have attached "riders" to numerous pending appropriations bills with the intent to forestall almost any progress in fighting the threats to our public health, safety and economic well-being which global warming presents.

As we close out the 1990s -- a decade that has seen seven of the ten hottest years on record -- our hope is that Congress will heed Mr. Herbert's call for leadership and work with the Administration to fight this serious problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger S. Ballentine', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roger S. Ballentine
Deputy Assistant to the President and
White House Climate Change Director