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George Will Column/Post Letter Response

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George Winc

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Editor, the Washington Post

Dear Sir:

In his column on Thursday, November 18, 1999, George Will derides as "eco-pessimism" the Vice President's early statements about global warming and how it will dwarf other great crises. He quotes a recent report to the effect that the scientific evidence does not back up the Vice President's positions on climate change that he made in his book "Earth in the Balance". But in fact, the points made by the Vice President in 1992 are strengthened by the evidence of the past seven years, and make the need for global action even stronger now than when he was one of the few calling attention.

Look at the observations: we now have better records from the past that confirm that recent warming is the greatest in ^{1,000} ~~10,000~~ years. Moreover, the data from satellites, once thought to contradict the surface data which shows warming, now confirms that warming. And since 1992, the Earth has continued to warm at a rate that is unprecedented, and fully consistent with being caused by the ever-increasing concentration of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. 1992, 1995, 1997, 1998 (? Check) each set records for being the warmest year in ^{1,000} ~~10,000~~ years, and even 1999 will be within the top 6 or 7.

Look at the science: In 1990, as the Vice President wrote his book, an intergovernmental panel of scientists estimated that a doubling of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would lead to a global surface temperature change in the range of 1.5 to 4.0 degrees Celsius, with a best estimate of 2.5 degrees. Today, with better understanding and estimates of the effects of clouds and aerosols, that panel's number is 2.0 degrees Celsius, with an uncertainty of about 0.6 degrees. Hardly a "near revolution"; closer to a confirmation. The magnitude is slightly less than earlier, but more importantly, the uncertainty has been cut in more than half. The global impacts remain similar whether the number is 2 or 2.5 degrees.

Look at the impacts: The scientific consensus has not changed with respect to either ecosystem collapse or more severe climates. From the beginning, it has been recognized that global CO2 warming, focused on higher latitudes, could be beneficial to some countries. Average temperatures will be higher, and crops will indeed do better with more CO2 and more rainfall. But these are only average scenarios. Every farmer knows that short term storms and floods can wash out a season's crop. And the consensus is that we will see a stronger hydrological cycle: more rain, more floods, accompanied by more droughts, which will have a negative effect on crops. But of equal importance to people, warming means that extreme events become more probable. Even a small change in the average temperature of 1 or 2 degrees Celsius can double the probability of extreme events. For example, as the U.S. has warmed, we have also seen an increase in the number and duration of heat waves, one of the major weather killers during the summer. A recent result, found in most of the models - extreme drought in the midwest - is a likely consequence of greenhouse warming. Finally, floods are the major Presidentially declared disasters of our time; more rainfall means more floods, more disasters.

How do we reduce the impacts? Look at the recent El Nino of 1997-1998: the good news

was that the winter of 1997-1998 was milder than normal, as a consequence less energy was needed for heating, and fewer people died in winter-related accidents. But this was small solace to those in California and Florida who suffered greatly increased storms, floods, loss of property, and increased loss of life. Each year we become more vulnerable to the impact of storms, floods, and other weather events, because our population is growing and our infrastructure is more expensive. The responsible course is to try to ensure that we reduce these impacts. Even if the positive economic impacts partially offset the negative impacts, isn't he right in focusing on reducing the loss of life and property?

Can society adapt? Will writes that the potential of societal adaptation to the environment is sometimes discounted. But by understanding and being aware of a problem, we greatly enhance the ability of society to adapt. From industry to congress, we see an understanding that global warming is real, and must be dealt with. Where there are differences, they are in how to deal with the problems. The Kyoto Protocol is a start, and the difficulties of implementing that protocol reveal the magnitude of the problem and show the need to start now. All the evidence points to a global problem with long-term climate change. Maybe George Will can't see far enough into the future to understand that, but Al Gore can.

Sincerely,

D. James Baker

George F. Will

Ever the Global Gloomster

Referring to "Earth in the Balance," his 1992 compendium of environmental alarms, Al Gore recently said, "There's not a statement in that book that I don't endorse. Not one. The evidence has firmed up the positions I sketched there." Positions such as:

"The climate changes that we are now bringing about by modifying the global atmosphere are likely to dwarf completely the ones that caused the great subsistence crisis of 1816-19; for example, or those that set the stage for the Black Death," and "are likely to be five times larger than the fluctuations that produced the Little Ice Age, for example, or the global climate change that led to the Great Famine of 1315-17."

Gore's eco-pessimism helped produce the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which assigns to nations vastly different duties to reduce carbon emissions responsible for global warming. America's duty under this agreement (which the Senate is not about to ratify) would be to reduce carbon use by 550 million tons per year in 2010. That might mean reducing by 40 percent the use of coal and oil.

Before policymakers undertake trillions of dollars in abatement costs, they should consider evidence that does not "firm up" Gore's thesis. Consider a booklet published by the American Enterprise Institute, "The Greening of Global Warming" by Robert Mendelsohn of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

He says that in the past decade our understanding of the effects of climate change has undergone a "near revolution" because the natural science and economic analyses underlying predictions have "altered dramatically." Science foresees milder climate scenarios. Ecologists are shifting from predic-

tions of "ecosystem collapse" to long-term predictions that include benefits:

"These changes are so dramatic that it is not clear whether the net economic effects from climate change over the next century will be harmful or helpful. The new research further suggests that ... many countries will benefit from warming—the very countries, ironically, that have contributed the most to historic emissions."

Gore's 1992 strictures about global warming reflected the 1989 assessment by the Environmental Protection Agency, which influenced subsequent studies that concluded that damages from climate change would be, Mendelsohn says, "universal and devastating."

The predicted (by the EPA) doubling of greenhouse gases was projected to produce temperature increases between three degrees and six degrees Celsius. Sea levels would rise one meter, many tree species would disappear (e.g., maples would die off in southern New England), and all animal species, and especially endangered ones, would be stressed. Sharp reductions of precipitation during growing seasons would be one reason why many crops would suffer 30 percent to 40 percent reductions in yields. Beneficiaries of warming would be pests that would ravage crops and trees, and diseases borne by insects. Timber scarcities, increased water pollution due to insufficient dilution by runoffs, huge costs for sea walls and for energy for cooling—the litany of woes was long.

Now improved analyses—of the interaction of oceans and atmosphere, of the cooling effect of sulfates found in the atmospheres of northern industrial countries, and much else—support the conclusion that warming will be only one degree to 3.5 degrees Celsius. Precipitation will increase, as will many plants. The average crop would be 30 percent more productive with projected increases in carbon dioxide.

"There is," Mendelsohn writes, "an unstated myth in ecology that natural conditions must be optimal. That is, we must be at the top of the hill now." The myth is sometimes sustained by discounting the potential of societal adaptation, such as that which controlled the malaria that used to afflict travelers along the Ohio River.

People with Gore's turn of mind—people who seem to relish environmental threats as reasons for expanding government's supervision of all behavior—have not really been happy since the putative "energy crisis" of the 1970s. Of course, predictions of the coming exhaustion of oil reserves have been hardy perennials.

Alex Taylor III, writing in *Fortune*, notes that in 1874, just 15 years after Col. Edwin Drake drilled the first oil well in Pennsylvania, the state's chief geologist said that the use of kerosene for lighting would drain U.S. petroleum reserves by 1878. "In 1939, and again in 1951, the Department of the Interior added up all the reserves in the world and reported, both times, that 13 years of oil remained." One reason more oil has been found this year than in any other year this decade is that offshore drilling, which was done in only 300 feet of water in 1965, will soon be done in 10,000 feet.

Never in recorded history have birth rates been as low, or per capita food production as high, as at the moment. Gore must pray for relief from the accumulating evidence that Earth is not really hanging in precarious balance.

THOMAS KUHN A14

“What if they're right?” a television promotional spot asks.

The “they” in question refers to those who predict that the dawn of the new millennium Jan. 1 will bring computer chaos, blackouts and panic in the streets. The question provides inspiration and story line for a network television movie about the millennium bug, set to air Nov. 21.

But the real question scaremongers ought to ask is whether they could fuel unnecessary panic and fear among Americans about the nation's readiness for year 2000. Normally, most Americans are easily able to distinguish fantasy from reality on TV and elsewhere. The fast-approaching new millennium, however, is subject matter that is anything but ordinary.

Throughout 1999, the banking, securities, oil and gasoline, electric, natural gas, pharmaceutical, telecommunications and other industries have invested billions of dollars in providing answers to public concern over the Y2K conversion.

They have done this through system-by-system checks, tests and remediation where necessary, followed by comprehensive contingency planning. This investment has paid off in more than mere terms of Y2K readiness. Business and consumers will reap the benefits of efficiencies gained through systems upgrades, more efficient business processes and improved communications within and between industry segments.

Until now, public communications concerning this work have largely been a success. For example, poll after poll has shown decreasing public anxiety over the prospect of major computer-related problems at year's end in the United States.

The banking industry provides a good example of effective Y2K public communications. The industry aggressively marketed the message that banks and ATM machines will

Tranquil vision of Y2K

be basically unaffected by Y2K. That message registered with the public early on and was so noted recently by Congress.

The electric power industry also communicated consistently and clearly that widespread or regional Y2K power outages were most unlikely. For example, the utilities announced this past summer that so-called “mission critical” parts of the industry were ready for the Y2K conversion. Confidence in that message has been reflected in news reporting and, again, by Congress.

A long list of other industries also effectively answered public anxiety with fact. But as Jan. 1 looms closer, some irrational fears appear to be resurfacing, potentially eroding some of the confidence that Americans should be feeling.

Some of this anxiety is being deliberately fed by advertisers and marketers seeking to capitalize on Americans' uncertainty about Y2K. Of course, the utility industry does not oppose responsible marketing of technologies and other appropriate preparations for the millennium conversion.

Regrettably, however, some popular messages appear to be designed primarily to suggest that chaos and panic will predominate on New Year's Eve. Naturally, many of these messages are tongue-in-cheek: A car manufacturer's ad showing one of its cars starting up against the backdrop of a darkened New York skyline. Other messages, however, are less benign. For example, statements

from a convenience-store chain that Y2K “may be the biggest opportunity we've ever had” do little to soothe uneasy psyches as New Year's approaches. The upcoming made-for-TV movie, “Y2K,” with its doomsday imagery of chaos and panic, is equally troubling.

For the record, the nation's network industries appear to be Y2K ready, even if annoying problems crop up sporadically when Jan. 1 arrives. Somewhere in America, people will get bills dated 1900. It will happen and it will be fixed with a minimum of breathlessness. On Monday, Jan. 3, the stock markets will be open, along with schools, hospitals and airports. Americans will buy gasoline, bread and milk, as usual.

Will there be power outages? The fact is that there will be localized power outages scattered across the United States, just as there are nearly every other day. No doubt somewhere on Dec. 31, utility poles will be felled by errant cars on slick roads, and snow and ice storms will conspire in other locales to temporarily interrupt power. Weather is the biggest variable affecting electricity in January.

But as a nation, we expect Jan. 1 to be like any other day. We cannot guarantee that no one will lose electricity; ours, after all, is one of a handful of industries whose product must be constantly available, on demand. But we can state with certainty that the nation's electric utilities are well prepared for the millennium date transition.

The one variable that utilities — and other industries — cannot control is the nation's psychological readiness. Naturally, the dawn of a new millennium is rich in symbolic significance and carries much emotional freight for Americans. As a society, let's not add unwarranted anxiety and fear to that heady mix.

Thomas R. Kuhn is president of the Edison Electric Institute.



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EPA to ease coal-fired plant rules, cut emissions

By Traci Watson
USA TODAY

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The Environmental Protection Agency is preparing to ease regulations for coal-fired power plants and factories in return for a cut in emissions.

The move could lead to cleaner air for millions of Americans.

"Our goals ... are to develop more flexibility with industry, coupled with opportunities for better environmental performance," says Robert Perciasepe, head of the federal agen-

cy's air pollution programs.

The EPA is preparing a rule that would ease some of the complex regulations governing coal-fired power plants and large factories throughout the USA. In exchange, the plants would cut their emissions of pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, key ingredients in smog.

Companies have long complained that EPA regulations for major equipment changes are cumbersome, expensive and confusing.

The EPA is deciding how much companies would have to

cut emissions and how soon they'd have to do so to gain relief from the regulations. Formal proposal of the new rule is expected early next year.

If the cutbacks adopted by major polluters are big enough, they could result in better air quality for those living in the shadow of power plants and those hundreds of miles away, because wind-borne pollution can travel long distances.

"If EPA follows the recommendation of the states and the environmentalists, this could be a windfall," says Bill Becker,

head of a Washington-based group of local and state air officials. "If EPA cuts too much slack, this program ... (will) raise emissions."

Current law exempts the nation's oldest and dirtiest plants from having to install the most up-to-date and efficient pollution-control equipment.

As a result, they have to obtain EPA permits for a host of different activities, including any major equipment changes or upgrades. The EPA has been looking at streamlining the rules since 1992. But it wasn't

until the spring of 1999 that companies started to think about reducing their emissions voluntarily, says Henry Nickel, an attorney at Hunton & Williams who represents a coalition of electric companies.

The EPA's plans are likely to provoke a major push to influence the details of the proposed rule. Environmentalists are expected to push for larger, quicker cutbacks in pollution. Most power plants and factories are expected to push for smaller, more delayed cutbacks.

Earth Is Doing Quite Nicely, Thank You

■ **Global warming:** Presidential candidate Al Gore doesn't let the evidence get in the way of his eco-pessimism.

By GEORGE F. WILL *AIS*

Referring to "Earth in the Balance," his 1992 compendium of environmental alarms, Al Gore recently said, "There's not a statement in that book that I don't endorse. Not one. The evidence has firmed up the positions I sketched there."

Positions such as: "The climate changes that we are now bringing about by modifying the global atmosphere are likely to dwarf completely the ones that caused the great subsistence crisis of 1816-19, for example, or those that set the stage for the Black Death" and "are likely to be five times larger than the fluctuations that produced the Little Ice Age, for example, or the global climate change that led to the Great Famine of 1315-17."

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George F. Will is a syndicated columnist in Washington.



FAX

OFFICE OF PUBLIC & CONSTITUENT AFFAIRS
NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FROM: Barbara Semedo

PHONE: (202) 482-5647 (voice) (202) 219-8827 (fax)

TO: Paul Bledsoe - 305-2311

AT: White House office on Climate change

COMMENTS: Paul - here is a draft
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PAGE 1 OF 3

**FAX****UPDATE
& PREVIOUS
DRAFT**

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Moving Forward on Global Warming

By Roger Ballentine

In New Hampshire this fall, Sierra Club volunteers are alerting voters to the dangers of global warming, part of a nationwide campaign by environmental groups to rally Americans and their political leaders to meet this profound environmental challenge.

Environmentalists are right to be spreading the word, for nearly every week we are confronted with yet more evidence confirming the broad scientific consensus that the world is getting warmer, and that human activities are at least partly to blame.

Yet, even as we push for stronger action against global warming, it is important to recognize that already significant efforts are underway. Indeed, from City Council chambers to corporate boardrooms, America is mobilizing to meet the challenge of climate change – and reaping real economic benefits along the way.

Earlier this year, for instance, more than 500 mayors and local officials – from Baltimore to St. Louis to Seattle – committed themselves and their communities to the fight against global warming. They are installing ultra-efficient traffic lights, improving energy efficiency in thousands of schools and municipal buildings, switching to renewable power – all steps that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while saving taxpayers money.

Corporate America also is rising to the challenge. Recently, DuPont pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 65 percent from 1990 levels by 2010. Motorola, Dow, IBM, BP Amoco and other leading corporations have also committed to significant emissions reductions, pioneering clean power technologies, emissions trading, or other innovative approaches. These companies recognize that clean energy is good not only for the environment, but for their bottom line, too.

All these efforts reflect the sound climate change strategy charted for our nation by President Clinton and Vice President Gore. Over the past seven years, the Administration has launched a broad array of programs to reduce U.S. emissions while working with other nations to forge a strong, sensible international response to one of the premier global challenges of the 21st century.

Naysayers in Congress, ignoring the mounting evidence of global warming, have tried to slash funding for clean energy programs and load up budget bills with special-interest “riders” that aim to strangle our common-sense efforts to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. The worst – and most nonsensical – of these riders even sought to put a strait jacket on programs that help taxpayers, businesses, and consumers save on their energy bills. Despite their efforts, the Administration has dramatically boosted investment in climate change programs. Each of the past two years, we have secured over \$1 billion to accelerate the research, development and deployment of 21st century clean energy technologies, and \$1.7 billion to increase our scientific understanding of climate change.

Earlier this year, President Clinton signed two new executive orders that will significantly reduce

greenhouse gas pollution. One will dramatically reduce the federal government's energy use, saving taxpayers about \$750 million a year. The second aims to triple the U.S. bioenergy industry (making fuels and products from crops and agricultural wastes), creating new income for farmers and cutting emissions by an amount equivalent to removing 70 million cars from our roads.

On the diplomatic front, U.S. leadership was critical in achieving the Kyoto Protocol, which sets strong, realistic targets for emissions reductions, and ensures they can be met cost-effectively through emissions trading and other market strategies.

The Protocol remains a work in progress. Over the coming year, we will work with other nations to resolve critical implementation issues and ensure a successful outcome at negotiations set for next November at The Hague. And we will continue working hard to secure more meaningful participation by key developing countries. Climate change is a global challenge. It requires a global solution.

There are promising signs that the many efforts under way across America are beginning to pay off. Through the 1990s, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions had increased an average of 1.4 percent annually – only about half of the 2.6 percent rate of economic growth. In 1998, while the economy grew almost 4 percent, emissions were essentially flat.

It's too early to declare that we've rounded the corner. Yet these figures suggest that economic growth and rising emissions need not march in lockstep. They reflect a core principle of the Clinton-Gore Administration: we need not choose between growing our economy and cleaning our environment. We can do both.

So when the Sierra Club urges you to send in a postcard saying we must do more, they're right. Thanks to the leadership of Bill Clinton and Al Gore, America has already rolled up its sleeves and started getting down to the business of fighting global warming. Let's keep going and take the next steps – for our children, our grandchildren, and generations yet to come.

Roger Ballentine is Deputy Assistant to the President for Environmental Initiatives and White House Climate Change Coordinator.

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23 NOV 99

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Look at the observations: We now have better records from the past that confirm that 1998 was the warmest year in 1,000 years. Moreover, the data from satellites, once thought to contradict the surface data which show warming, now confirm that warming. And since 1992, the Earth has continued to warm rapidly, consistent with the ever-increasing concentration of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. The six warmest years in the 120 years we have been measuring the earth's temperature all occurred in the 1990's: in order, they were 1998, 1995, 1990, 1997, 1994, and 1991.

Look at the science: In 1990, as the Vice President wrote his book, an intergovernmental panel of scientists estimated that a doubling of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would lead to a global surface temperature change in the range of 1.5 to 5.0 degrees Celsius, with a best estimate of 3.0 degrees. Today, with better understanding and estimates of the effects of clouds and the cooling effect of aerosols, that panel's number ranges from 1 to 3.5 degrees Celsius with 2.0 degrees as the best estimate and an uncertainty of about 0.6 degrees. Hardly a "near revolution"; closer to a confirmation. The magnitude is slightly less than earlier, but more importantly, the uncertainty has been cut in more than half. The global impacts remain similar whether the number is 2 or 3 degrees. And, in either case, these projected rates of change are faster than the earth has seen in 10,000 years!

[NOTE: USE FAHRENHEIT??]

Look at the projected impacts: The scientific consensus has not changed with respect to either ecosystem degradation or more severe climates. From the beginning, it has been recognized that global CO₂ warming, focused on higher latitudes, could be beneficial to some countries. Average temperatures will be higher, and crops will indeed do better with more CO₂ and more rainfall. But these are only average scenarios. Every farmer knows that short term storms and floods can wash out a season's crop. And the consensus is that we will see a stronger hydrological cycle: more rain, more floods, accompanied by more droughts, which will have a negative effect on crops. But of equal importance to people, warming means that

extreme events become more probable. Even a small change in the average temperature of 1 or 2 degrees Celsius can double the probability of extreme events. For example, as the U.S. has warmed, we have also seen an increase in the number and duration of heat waves, one of the major weather killers during the summer. A recent result, found in most of the models-- extreme drought in the midwest-- is a likely consequence of greenhouse warming. Finally, floods are the major Presidentially-declared disasters of our time; more rainfall means more floods, more disasters.

Why should we try to reduce the impacts? Look at the recent El Nino of 1997-1998: the good news was that the winter of 1997-1998 was milder than normal, as a consequence less energy was needed for heating, and fewer people died in winter-related accidents. But this was small solace to those in California and Florida who suffered greatly increased storms, floods, loss of property, and increased loss of life. Each year we become more vulnerable to the impact of storms, floods, and other weather events, because our population is growing and our infrastructure is more expensive. The responsible course is to try to ensure that we reduce these impacts.

Can society adapt? Will writes that the potential of societal adaptation to the environment is sometimes discounted. But by understanding and being aware of a problem, we greatly enhance the ability of society to adapt. From industry to Congress, we see an understanding that global warming is real, and must be dealt with. Where there are differences, they are in how to deal with the problems. The Kyoto Protocol is a start, and the difficulties of implementing that protocol reveal the magnitude of the problem and show the need to start now. If Kyoto is not implemented, we have an even bigger problem. All the evidence points to a global problem with long-term climate change. In any case we will have to deal with this issue and sooner is better than later.

Sincerely,

D. James Baker

Jim? Tom Karl had sent me these rankings a few months ago:

For global land:

1998, 1995, 1990, 1997, 1994, 1991, 1988, 1983, 1981, 1987, 1989, 1996, 1993, 1992

For global globe: (land and water)

1998, 1997, 1995, 1990, 1991, 1987, 1983, 1994, 1988, 1996, 1989, 1993, 1992



FAX

OFFICE OF PUBLIC & CONSTITUENT AFFAIRS
NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FROM: Barbara Semedo

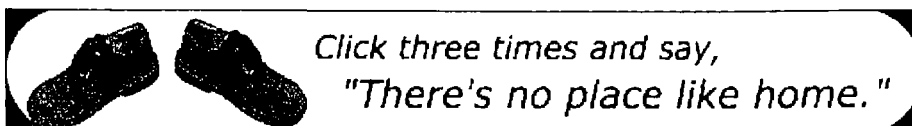
PHONE: (202) 482-5647 (voice) (202) 219-8827 (Fax)

TO: Paul Bledsoe

AT: 395-2311

COMMENTS: This is the latest
version of Dr. Baker oped -
10:40 AM - 11/23/99. This went to
Rozina today (this morning).

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Voters are urged to ask about global warming

By Robert Braile, Globe Correspondent, 11/14/99

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"We're trying to get in touch with the people of New Hampshire to help give them an opportunity to get involved in this issue, which is the biggest environmental issue we face," said Daniel Becker, director of the Sierra Club's global warming and energy program, based in Washington. He toured the state last week, promoting the campaign.

The group believes that global warming contributed to the region's wild weather over the last two years, from the January 1998 ice storm that killed 44 people in New England and caused \$1.4 billion in damages, to this year's record-setting drought that left lakes and rivers bone-dry. It says steps can and should be taken to stem the problem.

The postcards call on Shaheen to push for higher federal standards for fuel economy in motor vehicles and energy efficiency in appliances, and lower power plant emissions. The group is also circulating postcards addressed to President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, calling for higher fuel-economy standards.

Shaheen's press secretary, Pamela Walsh, said the governor has already written letters of support for higher fuel-efficiency standards and for lower plant emissions, and is working on a letter in support of higher efficiency standards for appliances. Walsh added that the governor supports tougher national standards for all power plants, and noted that the state Department of Environmental Services has a full-time staffer for global warming.

"It's an issue we're working on," Walsh said.

The Sierra Club campaign is part of a national effort to alert states and regions to the local threats of global warming, or the predicted rise in

The Superfund is expected to run out of money in March 2000 unless changes are made.

Cahill said there would be "some additional costs," but he said industry, not taxpayers, would bear the brunt of them.

in Colorado and New Mexico caused the rodent population to explode. The temperature hit 90 degrees Fahrenheit in Oregon on April 30. A month and a half later on June 16, it snowed in Idaho.

Environmentalists have long called for increases in the fuel efficiency of cars and other vehicles. The Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards have not been adjusted for more than a decade, they say. They have also long called for cuts in power plant emissions, and retrofitting those plants so they burn fuels more efficiently.

A recent report by the Environmental Trust, for instance, says America could meet nearly half of its required emissions reductions under the protocol by improving the fuel efficiency of cars to 21 miles per gallon from their current 19, by improving the generating efficiency of power plants by 10 percent, and by providing 5 percent of America's cars with engines that run on electricity or multiple fuels.

Becker said it is important that the United States take action at home to cut emissions and not rely solely on buying emissions "credits" in other countries to meet its requirements under the treaty. Such credits might involve buying and protecting overseas forests, which absorb carbon dioxide, as a way of offsetting emissions at home.

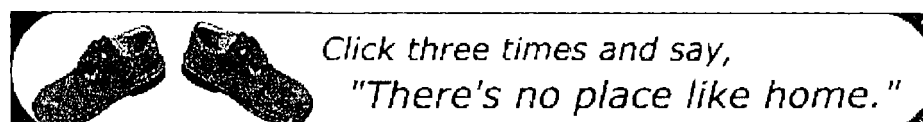
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The Clinton administration "has done almost nothing to stop global warming," Becker continued. "And that's why we're in New Hampshire. We want to encourage people here to ask the presidential candidates what they will do about global warming if they occupy the White House. The next president will have an opportunity to do something about it, or turn a blind eye to it. We want to know, before they're elected, what they're going to do."

This story ran on page 01 of the Boston Globe's New Hampshire Weekly on 11/14/99.

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Despite those hurdles, the Sierra Club says 51 percent of Americans polled in April would be more likely to vote for a candidate "who has proposed concrete steps to reduce the threat of global warming." It also says New Hampshire has good reason to be concerned about that threat, not only because of the variable weather, but also because hotter summers would result in more smog, which is already a problem, especially in the Southern Tier.

"New Hampshire citizens can't afford the costs to our economy, or to the health of our children," said Kim McGlinchey, a Sierra Club New Hampshire organizer. As for the eight or so major party candidates running for the White House, she said they should "tell us how they plan to slow global warming before further damage occurs here."

Scientists say the 10 warmest years ever recorded have occurred since 1980, with last year the warmest. The Sierra Club adds that heat waves in Chicago in 1995 and Dallas in 1998 killed more than 600 people, while droughts, hurricanes and other natural disasters caused 50,000 deaths and \$90 billion in damages last year alone. It also says record-high sea temperatures last year caused an unprecedented die-off of tropical coral.

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White House Climate Change Task Force

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FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION SHEET

To	Margorie Pritchard	From	Paul Bledsoe
Office	Boston Globe Op-Ed Editor	Date	11/22/99
Fax Number	617-929-2098	Fax Number	395-2342
Office Number	617-292-3041	Office Number	395-2310

Comments:

Ms. Pritchard - Attached is the op-ed we discussed. Please call me at 202-395-2345 if you would like me to e-mail it or provide any other information. I look forward to hearing from you.

Paul Bledsoe

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White House Climate Change Task Force

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To	Roger Ballentine	From	Pat Boone
Office	Environ. Initiatives	Date	11/19/
Fax Number	6-1736	Fax Number	395-2342
Office Number		Office Number	395-2310

Comments:

DRAFT BAKER OPENED.
THEY WANT CHANGES BY
MONDAY.

AB

Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

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Americans Are Working to Combat Global Warming

By Roger Ballentine

In New Hampshire this fall, Sierra Club volunteers are alerting voters to the dangers of global warming, part of a nationwide campaign by environmental groups to rally Americans and their political leaders to meet this profound environmental challenge.

Environmentalists are right to be spreading the word, for nearly every week we are confronted with yet more evidence confirming the broad scientific consensus that the world is getting warmer, and that human activities are at least partly to blame.

Yet, even as we push for stronger action against global warming, it is important to recognize that already significant efforts are underway. Indeed, from City Council chambers to corporate boardrooms, America is mobilizing to meet the challenge of climate change – and reaping real economic benefits along the way.

Earlier this year, for instance, more than 500 mayors and local officials – from Baltimore to St. Louis to Seattle – committed themselves and their communities to the fight against global warming. They are installing ultra-efficient traffic lights, improving energy efficiency in thousands of schools and municipal buildings, switching to renewable power – all steps that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while saving taxpayers money.

Corporate America also is rising to the challenge. Recently, DuPont pledged to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 65 percent from 1990 levels by 2010. Motorola, Dow, IBM, BP Amoco and other leading corporations have also committed to significant emissions reductions, pioneering clean power technologies, emissions trading, or other innovative approaches. These companies recognize that clean energy is good not only for the environment, but for their bottom line, too.

All these efforts reflect the sound climate change strategy charted for our nation by President Clinton and Vice President Gore. Over the past seven years, the Administration has launched a broad array of programs to reduce U.S. emissions while working with other nations to forge a strong, sensible international response to one of the premier global challenges of the 21st century.

Naysayers in Congress, ignoring the mounting evidence of global warming, have tried to slash funding for clean energy programs and load up budget bills with special-interest “riders” that aim to strangle our common-sense efforts to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. The worst – and most nonsensical – of these riders even sought to put a strait jacket on programs that help taxpayers, businesses, and consumers save on their energy bills. Despite their efforts, the Administration has dramatically boosted investment in climate change programs. Each of the past two years, we have secured over \$1 billion to accelerate the research, development and deployment of 21st century clean energy technologies, and \$1.7 billion to increase our scientific understanding of climate change.

Earlier this year, President Clinton signed two new executive orders that will significantly reduce

greenhouse gas pollution. One will dramatically reduce the federal government's energy use, saving taxpayers about \$750 million a year. The second aims to triple the U.S. bioenergy industry (making fuels and products from crops and agricultural wastes), creating new income for farmers and cutting emissions by an amount equivalent to removing 70 million cars from our roads.

On the diplomatic front, U.S. leadership was critical in achieving the Kyoto Protocol, which sets strong, realistic targets for emissions reductions, and ensures they can be met cost-effectively through emissions trading and other market strategies.

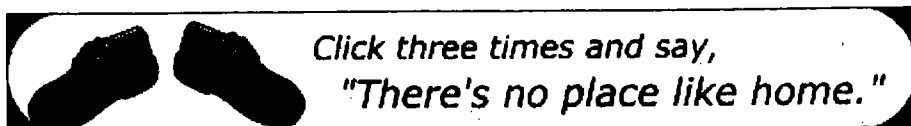
The Protocol remains a work in progress. Over the coming year, we will work with other nations to resolve critical implementation issues and ensure a successful outcome at negotiations set for next November at The Hague. And we will continue working hard to secure more meaningful participation by key developing countries. Climate change is a global challenge. It requires a global solution.

There are promising signs that the many efforts under way across America are beginning to pay off. Through the 1990s, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions had increased an average of 1.4 percent annually – only about half of the 2.6 percent rate of economic growth. In 1998, while the economy grew almost 4 percent, emissions were essentially flat.

It's too early to declare that we've rounded the corner. Yet these figures suggest that economic growth and rising emissions need not march in lockstep. They reflect a core principle of the Clinton-Gore Administration: we need not choose between growing our economy and cleaning our environment. We can do both.

So when the Sierra Club urges you to send in a postcard saying we must do more, they're right. Thanks to the leadership of Bill Clinton and Al Gore, America has already rolled up its sleeves and started getting down to the business of fighting global warming. Let's keep going and take the next steps – for our children, our grandchildren, and generations yet to come.

Roger Ballentine is Deputy Assistant to the President for Environmental Initiatives and White House Climate Change Coordinator.



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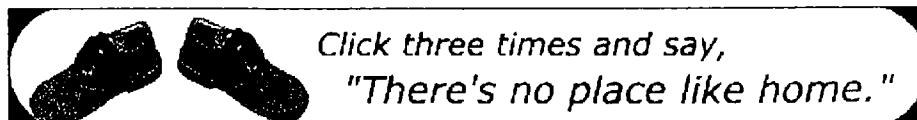
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White House Climate Change Task Force

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To	LAURA QUINN	From	PAUL BLEDSE
Office	VP	Date	11/18/99
Fax Number	456-2685	Fax Number	395-2342
Office Number		Office Number	395-2310

Comments:

RE: BOSTON GLOBE ARTICLE

AB

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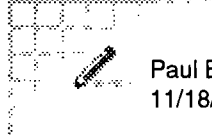
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Fax Number		Fax Number	395-2342
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Comments:

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Paul Bledsoe
11/18/99 10:15:19 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Laura M. Quinn/OVP@OVP
cc: Elliot J. Diringer/CEQ/EOP@EOP, Paul Bledsoe/WHCCTF/EOP@EOP
Subject: Boston Globe Story on Climate Change

The Boston Globe ran a front page story last Sunday very critical of the Administration's climate change program-- I'm faxing you a copy. Ostensibly about a Sierra Club effort to get voters concerned about climate issues, it contains 4 long paragraphs directly criticizing the Administration's having "done almost nothing" on climate change and mishandling the Kyoto process. Interestingly, it doesn't focus on the VP specifically at all--instead the story criticizes a lack of domestic action, our stance on emissions trading--Administration positions generally.

We are drafting an op-ed to come from Roger Ballentine for submission to the Globe defending the Administration's climate change programs. I'll forward you a draft later today. I wanted to make sure you knew about this before we acted on it in anyway. I'll telephone you about this as well. thanks.

Moving Forward on Global Warming

By Roger Ballentine

Seemingly every week the public is confronted with new evidence confirming what the majority of the world's scientists already believe to be true: that the world is getting warmer and that human activities are at least partly to blame.

Last week it was studies proving that the arctic ice sheets are thinning and that polar bears on the Hudson Bay are threatened by a reduced pack ice season. Earlier this year, it was reports on the unprecedented heat waves and fires in the New York City area. Global warming is a suspect in each case.

Almost as frequent as new scientific warnings about the dangers of global warming, are new calls for the United States and the world to address the problem. We applaud and join these voices. Too often, however, these comments overlook what the United States is already doing to address climate change. A case in point is the article which appeared in last Sunday's Globe ("Voters are urged to ask about global warming" 11/14). In the article, the Clinton Administration was accused of having "done almost nothing to stop global warming." Almost nothing could be farther from the truth.

President Clinton and Vice President Gore believe that the threat of global climate change will be one of the premier challenges of the 21st century. That is why they have put in place dozens of win-win programs since 1993 that both help to curb U.S. greenhouse gas emissions save money for taxpayers, consumers, and businesses alike.

Each of the past two years, the President and Vice President have secured over \$1 billion towards accelerating the research, development and deployment of 21st century clean energy technologies. Thanks in part to Administration efforts, millions of consumers, businesses, and state and local governments are purchasing more energy efficient products, pursuing energy efficiency strategies, and buying cleaner power. And, thanks to the Administration's \$1.7 billion Global Change Research Program, we have vastly increased scientific understanding of climate change over the past seven years. The Administration has also been successful in fending off the efforts of global warming naysayers in Congress who have tried to slash funding for clean energy programs and load up budget bills with special-interest "riders" that aim to strangle common-sense efforts to reduce greenhouse gas pollution.

Finally, President Clinton signed two new executive orders this year that help address global warming. One will dramatically reduce the federal government's energy use, saving taxpayers about \$750 million a year. The second aims to triple the U.S. bioenergy industry (making fuels and products from crops and agricultural wastes), creating new income for farmers and cutting an amount of greenhouse gas pollution equivalent to removing 70 million cars from our roads.

We are confident that in the long run, the President's and Vice President's policies – together with initiatives in the private sector and at the state and local level – will have a real effect. We have seen some promising signs. Through the 1990s U.S. greenhouse gas emissions had

increased by an average of 1.4 percent annually – only about half of the 2.6 percent rate of economic growth. For 1998, U.S. emissions were essentially flat, even while the economy grew by almost 4 percent.

There are many factors behind those numbers. Yet we find them encouraging because they reflect a core principle of the Clinton-Gore Administration: that we need not choose between growing our economy and cleaning our environment. We can do both. Our approach to climate change is based on that principle.

This is the message that the United States carried to Bonn earlier this month for this year's UN climate change treaty negotiations. Far from "erupt[ing] [in] opposition to the U.S. position" on climate change (as claimed by the Sierra Club in last Sunday's article), the Bonn conference was a cordial, productive, working meeting. I know. I was there as one of the leaders of the U.S. delegation. ~~What we saw in Bonn was~~ solid, steady progress in turning the broad concepts set forth in the "Kyoto Protocol" into working realities. The United States continued to insist in the climate negotiations – and rightly so – that the rules implementing the Protocol must be cost effective: gaining us the most greenhouse gas reductions for each available dollar. And we continued to work hard to secure more meaningful participation by key developing countries in the fight against climate change: global problems require global solutions.

Environmental groups are correct in pointing out that more needs to be done to protect our climate for generations yet to come – and we applaud any effort that raises public awareness on this issue. But we believe that the public is already aware that climate change poses a serious risk to our future, and that Bill Clinton and Al Gore are leading the fight for solutions. Almost nothing could be closer to the truth.

Roger Ballentine is Deputy Assistant to the President for Environmental Initiatives and White House Climate Change Coordinator.