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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 8, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ROGER BALLENTINE 
RE: OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES WEEKLY

Climate Change

Press, Science and Industry

More evidence of long-term global warming has been found by a team of scientists studying lake and river temperatures, according to a study published in the journal *Science* and covered by the *Washington Post*, *AP* and others (9/8). On average, lakes and rivers in the Northern Hemisphere are freezing about nine days later and thawing about ten days earlier than they were 150 years ago. The researchers found that this warming trend was occurring before the human-induced build-up of greenhouse gases, but that the trend has accelerated in the last 100 years.

The Kyoto Protocol

This week and next, negotiators are meeting in Lyon, France to attempt to narrow differences in the negotiating text on key issues for UN's Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP6) on climate change November 13-24. These issues include the nature of the Kyoto Protocol's compliance regime, the extent to which the U.S. and other developed countries may meet their targets using carbon sinks, and the rules for the Protocol's flexibility mechanisms.

Legislative

The Senate Energy and Water Appropriations Bill included report language indicating Committee support of efforts to increase international market opportunities for the export and deployment of advanced clean energy technologies. However, the Committee said that it was providing *no* funds for your International Clean Energy Initiative, arguing that the Administration must first "improve the Federal Government's role in the national and international development, demonstration, and deployment of advanced clean energy technologies by establishing an interagency working group jointly chaired by the Departments of Energy and Commerce and the U.S. Agency for International Development." This office, in fact, has drafted an Executive Memorandum designed to coordinate such federal efforts. The Bill passed the Senate 93-1 on Thursday.

During Senate deliberations of PNTR, Senator Byrd introduced an amendment to support the deployment of United States clean energy technologies in China. During his remarks, Senator Byrd said:

Sales of such clean technology helps U.S. firms, of course, but also provide a mechanism for the Chinese to improve their air and water quality, a necessary step if China is ever to step up to what should be leadership role for her among the world's developing nations with regard to climate change.

The amendment was rejected, 31-65.

Initiatives

This week, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) voted 7-1 to purchase 100 natural gas buses, subject to funding. *The Washington Post* credited your personal interest in this effort as critical.

Lands

Bipartisan support and pressure continues to grow for action on the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, with Dear Colleague letters and other communications currently circulating on Capitol Hill. House and Senate staff is meeting to work through differences between their respective bills, although Senate floor time is unlikely.

cc: The Vice President
John Podesta
Steve Ricchetti
Sandy Berger
Martin Baily
Chuck Brain
Charles Burson
George Frampton
Neal Lane
Robert Lawrence