



To
The President of the United States
George Bush
White House
1600, Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington DC 20500
USA

Brussels, 14 May 2001

Dear Mr. President,

The European Environmental Bureau is a federation of organisations of citizens concerned with the environment. It represents more than 130 organisations with more than 15 million European members.

These organisations and their members are gravely concerned with the recent reversal of the US Government's position on the Kyoto Protocol.

Authoritative scientific evidence for climate change already exists, as indicated in the last report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, on which many outstanding American scientists are represented. It is difficult to understand why the claims of a minority of sceptics, should take precedence in your Administration's analysis of the evidence on climate change.

U.S. leadership to recognise and begin to deal with a problem of this magnitude is important both for the US itself and for the rest of the world, now and in the future. The weight of the evidence indicates that, unless we begin to take steps now to mitigate climate change (i.e. comply with the Kyoto Protocol), the economic, social and environmental consequences will be extreme. No nation or economy will be immune, although some will suffer more severely than others.

We urge you not to do a disservice to the American economy and to the American consumer by exaggerating the costs of complying with the Kyoto Protocol. Recent analyses including analyses by your own Administration, indicate that these costs are not as high as previously imagined. Pursuing the objectives of the Kyoto Protocol can stimulate the power of innovation derived from the use of new, cleaner and more efficient fuels, and to the benefit of America's role in a future economy

We would like to express our grave concerns regarding the Cabinet review on energy. We do not believe, as some members of your Administration seem to indicate, that nuclear energy should be regarded as a part of the solution to climate change. Nuclear

power is neither economically viable, nor environmentally safe. Not only does it pose environmental hazards, it also carries with it the threat of increased plutonium terrorism.

As representatives of the European environmental movement, we support action, both in the United States and in Europe, to meet the goals of the Kyoto Protocol to combat climate change. With this letter we would like to lend our support to the efforts conducted by Climate Action Network, both in the U.S. and abroad. We would also like to express our support for the recent efforts by Friends of the Earth to attempt to persuade you to honour your Nation's commitment in the global arena, as well as Greenpeace's campaign concerning American corporate support for the Administration's recent policy reversal.

We urge you to reconsider your position and to show true economic and environmental leadership sense in tackling the challenge climate change poses for us all.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a long horizontal line that tapers to the right.

John Hontelez
Secretary General
For the European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

And

The EEB Board:

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