

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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Increasing Carbon Dioxide Concentrations Threaten Ocean Life:

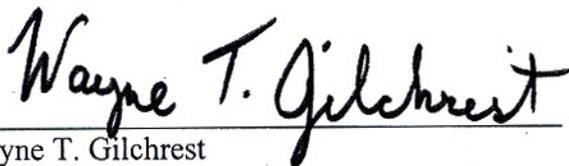
Join Us in
Cosponsoring the Climate Stewardship Act

Dear Colleague:

We would like to draw your attention to an article that appeared in the *New York Times* on July 20, 2004, entitled "Carbon Dioxide Extends its Harmful Reach to Oceans." It discusses new research showing dramatic absorption of carbon dioxide—one study found that the oceans have absorbed nearly half the total amount of CO₂ released through human activity during that time. Increased CO₂ concentrations are expected to cause significant changes in the chemistry of the ocean upon which ocean life is delicately balanced. In addition to changes in trophic levels, also called the "food chain," resulting increases in ocean acidity are already dissolving corals and other calcium-supported life forms. The impacts of human activity on atmospheric and ocean systems are becoming more apparent and more compelling.

We hope you will join the growing discussion in the House of Representatives on global climate change policy and cosponsor the Climate Stewardship Act (HR 4067). Together, we can work from this base to craft policy to address this urgent issue.

For more information, please contact Edith Thompson in Rep. Gilchrest's office (5-5311), Abbie Meador in Rep. Olver's office (5-5335), Amanda Murphy in Rep. Greenwood's office (5-4276), or Bill Parsons in Rep. Van Hollen's office (5-5341).



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