

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

We wish to draw your attention to this important article on climate change.

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The New York Times
ON THE WEB

June 7, 2001

PANEL TELLS BUSH GLOBAL WARMING IS GETTING WORSE

President Sought Report on Issue After Rejecting World Pact

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE with ANDREW C. REVKIN

WASHINGTON, June 6 — A panel of top American scientists declared today that global warming was a real problem and was getting worse, a conclusion that may lead President Bush to change his stand on the issue as he heads next week to Europe, where the United States is seen as a major source of the air pollution held responsible for climate change.

In a much-anticipated report from the National Academy of Sciences, 11 leading atmospheric scientists, including previous skeptics about global warming, reaffirmed the mainstream scientific view that the earth's atmosphere was getting warmer and that human activity was largely responsible.

"Greenhouse gases are accumulating in earth's atmosphere as a result of human activities, causing surface air temperatures and subsurface ocean temperatures to rise," the report said. "Temperatures are, in fact, rising."

The report was requested by the White House last month in anticipation of an international meeting on global warming in Bonn in July but arrived just before President Bush leaves next week for Europe, a trip that includes talks on global warming with leaders of the 15 European Union countries in Goteborg, Sweden.

European leaders expressed outrage in March when Mr. Bush rejected the global warming pact known as the Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty negotiated in Kyoto, Japan, in 1997, and the subject has been building as an important test of the administration's foreign policy.

In the White House's first official acknowledgment of the academy's conclusions, Condoleezza Rice, Mr. Bush's national security adviser, told reporters today, "This is a president who takes extremely seriously what we do know about climate change, which is essentially that there is warming taking place."

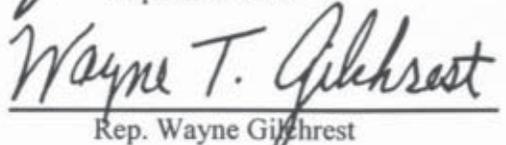
Mr. Bush and many in his cabinet, who discussed the subject at length on Tuesday, have been trying to hammer out a proposal on limiting the pollutants that cause global warming.

We are pleased that the White House gave the National Academy of Science (NAS) the opportunity to assess the scientific analysis completed recently by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The NAS panel, 11 leading atmospheric scientists, reaffirmed the mainstream scientific view that the earth's atmosphere is getting warmer and that human activity is largely responsible.

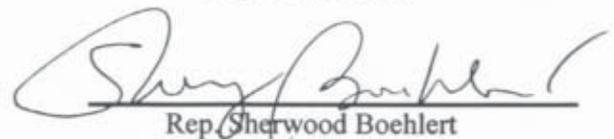
We believe that there is enough scientific evidence to move forward in a responsible way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To join our efforts or for additional information on climate change please contact us, or have your staff contact Sally McGee in Rep. Gilchrest's office (5-5311) or Abbie Meador in Rep. Olver's office (5-5335).

Sincerely,


Rep. John Olver


Rep. Wayne Gilchrest


Rep. Tom Allen


Rep. Sherwood Boehlert