

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

November 13, 2000

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to express our support for a strong agreement at the sixth conference of the parties (COP6) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in November 2000 at The Hague.

There is a growing consensus that global climate change is occurring, and that nations must engage in a good faith process to find solutions. In the recent Third Assessment Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that man-made pollution has "contributed substantially" to global warming and the earth is likely to get significantly hotter than previously predicted.

The rules of the Kyoto Protocol that may be decided at The Hague will have vast implications in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions. We draw your attention to several fundamental issues, the outcome of which will determine the effectiveness and environmental integrity of the Kyoto Protocol.

#### **Sequestration by forests and agriculture**

The Kyoto Protocol recognizes that sinks must be included as part of an economically and environmentally sound approach to climate change. We see important opportunities for forest and agriculture crediting to encourage wise stewardship of forests and cropland. We urge negotiators to include environmental standards that protect native ecosystems, native biodiversity, natural ecological processes, and indigenous cultures.

Further, we believe negotiators must ensure that sequestration rules do not provide contradictory incentives for clearing or conversion of old growth forests to plantations. We also believe that an adequate monitoring system is necessary to distinguish additional activities from business as usual practices.

### **Compliance**

We support strong binding penalties to encourage Parties to comply with their obligations under the Treaty. Any financial element or the creation of a "compliance fund" should be used in coordination with a plan to rectify the atmospheric damage.

### **Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)**

The CDM is an important tool to achieve the goals of the Kyoto Protocol in a cost efficient manner. However, many issues surrounding the mechanism remain unresolved.

We support a system that assures appropriate monitoring to guarantee that projects go beyond reductions that would have occurred regardless of the Treaty. Priority should be given to renewable energy projects, as these are cost-effective and U.S. companies have much to gain from exporting low-carbon technology.

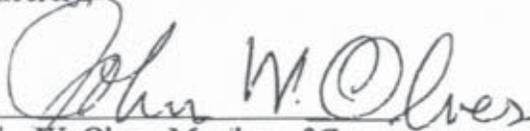
### **Developing Country Participation**

Full participation of developing countries is essential to the effectiveness of the Kyoto Protocol. It is well known that the energy consumption of all developing countries is increasing rapidly, and in fact, within the next two decades, it is likely that China will surpass the United States in greenhouse gas emissions. Commitments from these countries to engage in policies that attempt to minimize greenhouse gas emissions, especially by increasing energy efficiency and the use of alternative energy sources, will be essential to addressing the problem of global warming.

We hope that during the discussions in The Hague regarding the adequacy of commitments in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, the United States will successfully advocate the inclusion of developing countries. We encourage the Administration to enlist developing countries in these continuing efforts. In particular, the recent announcements from India and China made jointly with the Administration regarding cooperative efforts to promote clean energy development and to undertake efforts to combat global climate change are encouraging. We urge continued engagements with developing countries.

Thank you for considering these requests as you prepare for negotiations at The Hague. Global climate change is the most challenging environmental issue facing this and future generations. It is vital that the ongoing negotiations are successful in making progress toward meeting this challenge.

Sincerely,



John W. Olver, Member of Congress



Wayne T. Gilchrest, Member of Congress

Cc Frank E. Loy, U.S. Department of State  
Roger Ballentine, White House Deputy for Environmental Initiatives