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1st District, Maryland

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COAST GUARD AND
MARITIME TRANSPORTATION
WATER RESOURCES



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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WATERSHED TASK FORCE

November 2, 2001

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

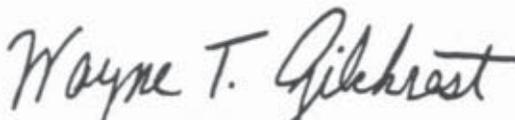
Dear Mr. President:

As co-chairs of the Congressional Climate Change Caucus, we are writing to urge you and your administration to engage in the current round of negotiations of the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change currently underway in Marrakech, Morocco. The United States must remain partners in this international process to ensure that global environmental interests and US interests are represented in these discussions.

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a United Nations-sponsored scientific body of more than 2,000 scientists from around the world, reached several staggering conclusions in their latest report on the scientific consensus on climate change. According to the IPCC, global warming is already happening and is causing higher ocean temperatures, rising sea levels, and thinning of snow and ice cover. The IPCC has also concluded that global average temperatures are projected to rise by 2.4 to 10.4 degrees F (1.4 to 5.8 degrees C) over the next 100 years and that we know more definitively than ever that human activities are responsible for global warming. As the world's largest emitter of green house gasses, the US must step up efforts to reduce our role in accelerating global climate change and take responsible action to do everything we can to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gasses. Reactivating US participation in international climate negotiations is one way to do so.

Now more than ever, US participation in climate change negotiations is critical. As other nation's debate in Marrakesh regarding compliance mechanisms, trading emissions allowances, technology transfer, and carbon sinks, we would be remiss to stand by passively while decisions are made with wide-ranging ramifications for the US. Therefore, we urge you to allow our negotiators to serve US interests at home by demonstrating leadership on climate change issues to the world in Marrakesh.

Sincerely,


Wayne T. Gilchrest


John Olver

