

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 1, 2002

Dear President Bush:

We are writing to you regarding your climate change plan outlined on Thursday, February 14, 2002. We welcome your acknowledgment of the seriousness of climate change, but we also have concerns that this proposal will not do enough to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases or the threat of climate change. In 1992, President George H. W. Bush signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, setting a voluntary goal for the US to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. Voluntary programs have not worked.

The seriousness of climate change cannot be overstated. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), a group of hundreds of scientists established by the United Nations in 1988 to assess global warming, concluded that global warming is real and will have serious consequences. The IPCC report, released in January 2001, states that the Earth has warmed in the last century and that the majority of the observed warming is attributable to human activities, including fossil fuel-generated carbon dioxide emissions. In late 2001, the National Academies of Sciences report, which you requested, confirmed these findings.

In 1993, the Department of Energy launched the Climate Challenge program in an effort to encourage voluntary reporting and voluntary emissions reductions; your plan calls for reliance on this unproven program. Despite significant industry participation and reporting of emissions "reductions," actual electric industry CO₂ emissions increased by 20% between 1990 and 2000. Comprehensive mandatory reporting by all major sectors that emit greenhouse gases is urgently needed to provide an accurate account of the status of emissions and to encourage early action.

While we strongly support your intent to regulate nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and mercury from power plants, we urge you to add regulation of carbon dioxide emissions to your clean air proposal. It is vital that the utility sector meet unambiguous greenhouse gas emissions reduction requirements. A decade of voluntary programs resulted in a net increase of 13.6% in US greenhouse gas emissions between 1990 and 2000. The utility sector alone accounts for over 40% of the US's greenhouse gas emissions; we need comprehensive four-pollutant legislation.

Other nations are moving forward with their own climate change plans and simultaneously creating incentives for a market of new technologies including affordable, clean, renewable energy sources, fuel efficient cars, and efficient appliances. Their consumers will benefit by saving money and by establishing independent, sustainable economies. Americans can benefit from new and existing money saving technologies that can close the light-truck loophole and raise corporate average fuel economy standards. In addition, we must provide solid funding for renewable energy, energy efficiency as you have acknowledged in your support for developing fuel cell technologies.

For the future of our environment, economy, and national security, the United States must develop a meaningful plan to address climate change. We look forward to working with you as you continue to develop the nation's climate change policy.

Sincerely,


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Jay Inslee M.C.


Barbara Lee M.C.


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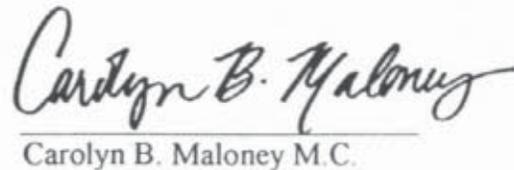

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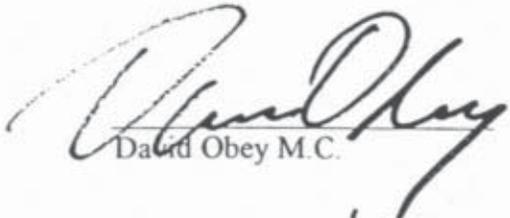

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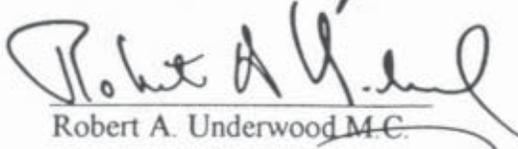

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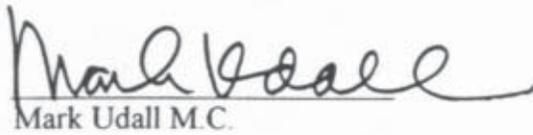

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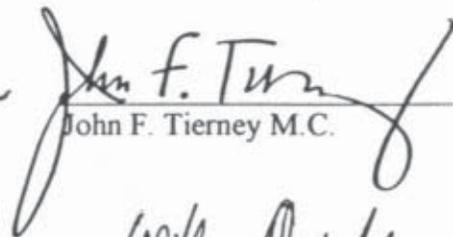

Robert A. Underwood M.C.

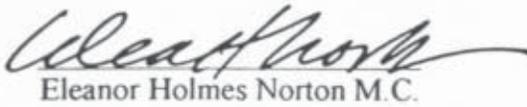

Lloyd Doggett M.C.


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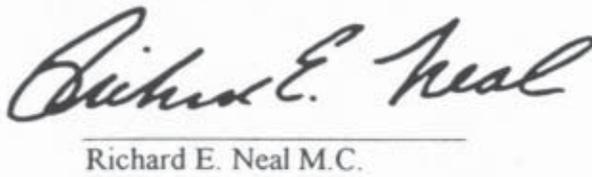

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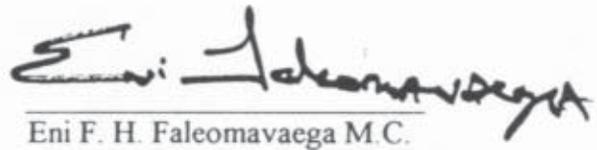

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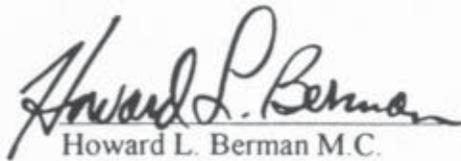

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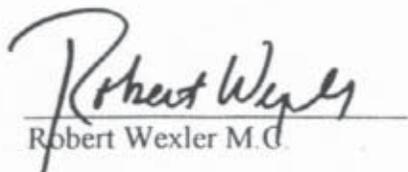

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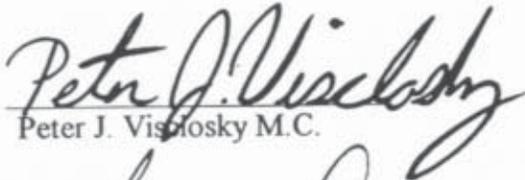
Christopher Shays
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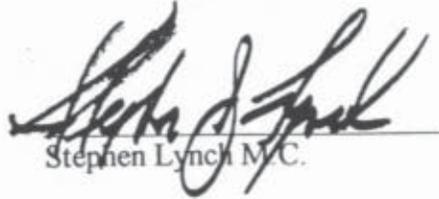

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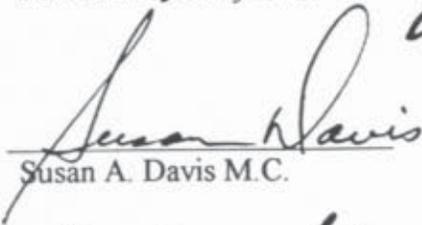

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