

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2001

The Scientific Evidence on Climate Change is Clear – Public Policy Should Be Too

Support the Menendez Climate Change Language in H.R. 1646 (State Department Authorization)

Dear Colleague:

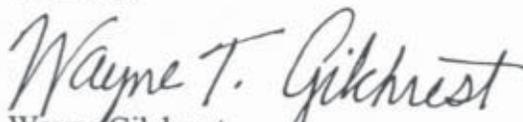
On May 4, 2001, our colleagues who serve on the International Relations Committee reported H.R. 1646, authorizing the activities of the State Department for the next two years. This bill contains language expressing a sense of Congress regarding global warming (the Menendez amendment) and is scheduled for consideration on the House Floor on Wednesday or Thursday (May 9 or 10, 2001).

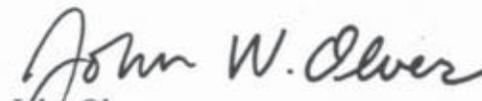
We are writing to urge you to join us in support of the climate change language, which appears in full on the reverse of this letter, and in opposition to efforts to remove it. As the world's only remaining superpower and the largest producer of greenhouse gases, we would be remiss in our leadership role if we did not take action to reduce the effects of greenhouse gases on the global climate. The Menendez language urges the US to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to remain actively engaged in international negotiations surrounding the Kyoto Protocol.

The Menendez amendment sends the message that the United States should not walk away from the Kyoto *process*. The amendment does not expressly endorse the Protocol itself. It states that the United States should remain engaged in these critical negotiations. We agree that the Kyoto Protocol needs more work, and the language in H.R. 1646 indicates that the US should "continue to participate in international negotiations with the objective of completing the rules and guidelines for the Kyoto Protocol *in a manner that is consistent with the interests of the US and that ensures the environmental integrity of the Protocol.*"

Climate change is a global issue, but it has local ramifications for all of us. We urge you to join us in supporting the Menendez amendment and oppose all efforts to strike the language. For more information, please contact either one of us, or have your staff contact Sally McGee (Rep. Gilchrest x55311) or Abbie Meador (Rep. Olver x55335).

Sincerely,


Wayne Gilchrest
Co-Chair Climate Change Caucus


John Olver
Co-Chair Climate Change Caucus

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 1646
OFFERED BY MR. MENENDEZ, MS. LEE, MR.
HASTINGS OF FLORIDA, AND MR. FALEOMAEVAGA

After section 737 insert the following new section:

1 **SEC. 738. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO GLOBAL**
2 **WARMING.**

3 (a) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress makes the following
4 findings:

5 (1) Global climate change poses a significant
6 threat to national security, the American economy,
7 public health and welfare, and the global environ-
8 ment.

9 (2) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate
10 Change (IPCC) has found that most of the observed
11 warming over the last fifty years is attributable to
12 human activities, including fossil fuel-generated car-
13 bon dioxide emissions.

14 (3) The IPCC has stated that global average
15 surface temperatures have risen since 1861.

16 (4) The IPCC has stated that in the last forty
17 years, the global average sea level has risen, ocean
18 heat content has increased, and snow cover and ice
19 extent have decreased which threatens to inundate



1 low-lying Pacific island nations and coastal regions
2 throughout the world.

3 (5) The Environmental Protection Agency pre-
4 dicts that global warming will harm United States
5 citizens by altering crop yields, causing sea levels to
6 rise, and increasing the spread of tropical infectious
7 diseases.

8 (6) Industrial nations are the largest producers
9 today of fossil fuel-generated carbon dioxide emis-
10 sions.

11 (7) The United States has ratified the United
12 Nations Framework on Climate Change which
13 states, in part, "the Parties to the Convention are
14 to implement policies with the aim of returning...to
15 their 1990 levels anthropogenic emissions of carbon
16 dioxide and other greenhouse gases".

17 (8) The United Nations Framework Convention
18 on Climate Change further states that "developed
19 country Parties should take the lead in combating
20 climate change and the adverse effects thereof".

21 (9) Action by the United States to reduce emis-
22 sions, taken in concert with other industrialized na-
23 tions, will promote action by developing countries to
24 reduce their own emissions.



1 (10) A growing number of major American
2 businesses are expressing a need to know how gov-
3 ernments worldwide will respond to the threat of
4 global warming.

5 (11) More efficient technologies and renewable
6 energy sources will mitigate global warming and will
7 make the United States economy more productive
8 and create hundreds of thousands of jobs.

9 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the
10 Congress that the United States should demonstrate inter-
11 national leadership and responsibility in mitigating the
12 health, environmental, and economic threats posed by
13 global warming by—

14 (1) taking responsible action to ensure signifi-
15 cant and meaningful reductions in emissions of car-
16 bon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from all sec-
17 tors; and

18 (2) continuing to participate in international
19 negotiations with the objective of completing the
20 rules and guidelines for the Kyoto Protocol in a
21 manner that is consistent with the interests of the
22 United States and that ensures the environmental
23 integrity of the protocol.

