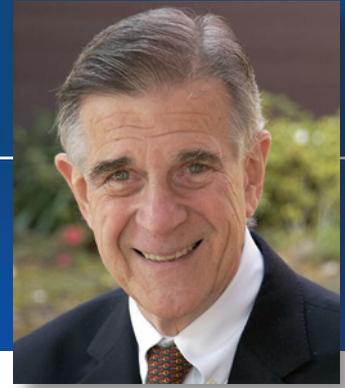


# CONGRESSMAN PETE STARK

## JULY 2006 REPORT



# THE THREAT OF GLOBAL WARMING

**G**lobal warming has evolved into one of the most important issues of our time. Though its full impact won't be felt for decades, manmade greenhouse gases are already wreaking havoc. They're melting polar ice caps at alarming rates, threatening island communities, raising water surface temperatures, and devastating marine life. Increases in sea surface temperature are changing rain patterns, causing droughts, and intensifying storms. For example, many scientists believe global warming made Hurricane Katrina bigger and stronger.

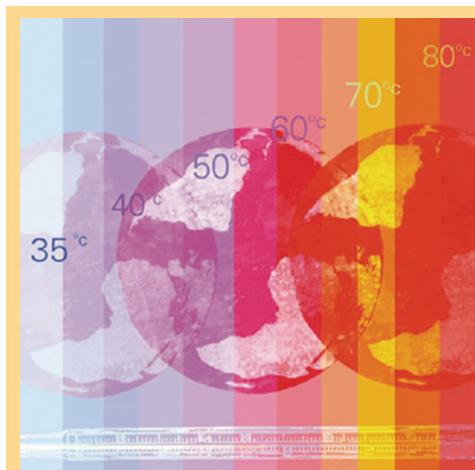
In California, warming is creating less desirable conditions for the agriculture industry, damaging land-based wildlife and marine ecosystems, and increasing the risk of flooding and erosion. Even though its short and long term effects are a more serious threat than terrorism, President Bush refuses to sign the Kyoto treaty on climate change.

American leadership is needed to stop global warming. We make up only four percent of the world's population, but produce twenty-five percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

California isn't waiting for the federal government. The state is working to enact the California Global

Warming Solutions Act (AB 32), legislation to lower the state's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

But California can't do it alone. That's why I support long-overdue federal legislation to curtail national emissions.



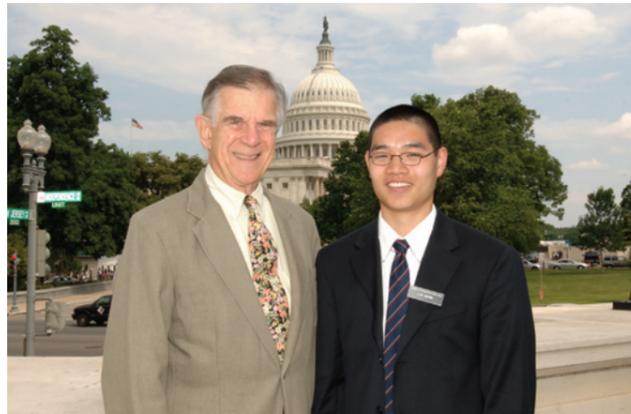
According to a recent report by the National Academy of Sciences, the Earth is the hottest it has been in at least 400 years, and potentially the last several millennia.

- **The Climate Stewardship Act** (HR 759) would reduce emissions to 2000 levels by 2010. The bill would also expand research initiatives to encourage development of innovative technologies to combat global warming.

- **The New Apollo Energy Act** (HR 2828) would require utilities to generate a certain portion of their energy from renewable sources, provide tax incentives to encourage consumers to purchase clean energy technologies, radically

increase funding for green technology research and development, and oblige the federal government to purchase clean energy for federal offices.

Our efforts to address global warming must be non-partisan. As Al Gore stated in his powerful documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, it is a moral issue. He's right. We need to unite to address the environmental crisis at hand.



Congressman Pete Stark with Lap Kien Huynh of Hayward, who was selected as a Congressional Page.

## HAYWARD STUDENT HONORED

Pete Stark was honored to nominate Lap Kien Huynh, a junior at Tennyson High School in Hayward, to serve as a Congressional Page for the 2006 Spring Semester. Hundreds of students apply for the program every year, but only 72 are selected to come to Washington each session. Out of all of them, Lap was asked to extend his stay by six weeks so that he could train the Summer Pages. Lap says his favorite part of the experience is "being on the House floor, seeing Members of Congress vote, and making new friends." Lap particularly enjoyed attending the State of the Union.

## WHERE NEXT? IRAN OR NORTH KOREA?

Even as the never-ending War in Iraq continues, neoconservatives are setting their sights on Iran and North Korea. As an original and vocal opponent of the War in Iraq, I am concerned that the Administration will handle these hotspots with finesse similar to their tragic Iraqi adventure.

I hope, however, that President Bush and his allies in Congress have learned from this experience. Rather than intentionally alienating our foreign allies, the United States should work with the world community. Diplomacy, not preemptive war, should be our first resort when addressing global challenges.

More than 2,500 brave American servicemen and women and countless Iraqi civilians have died as a result of the counterproductive War in Iraq. In Congress, I will oppose efforts to pursue an equally destructive course against Iran or North Korea.

## MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG UPDATE

The Medicare Part D prescription drug program has now been operating for six months. There are people who are benefiting. But millions of people with low incomes have not signed up, many people are confronting difficulties with drug plan rules that restrict access to their medications, and millions of people are paying higher prices than they had anticipated.



the Republican plan required that people join private drug plans. This negates the savings that could have been achieved by Medicare bargaining for better drug prices for everyone. Then, they went so far as to prohibit the government from negotiating drug discounts at all. As a result, the program is unnecessarily complex, expensive, and inefficient.

I'm working to help ease transition problems and fix design faults with this law. May 15th was the enrollment deadline for most people. There are approximately 5 million people who missed the deadline, many of whom are locked out of obtaining drug coverage until next year. For enrolling late, they will pay a financial penalty -- for life. That's wrong. I continue to work for a one-time extension of that deadline and a waiver of the financial penalty through the end of this year so that people have time to figure out this complex system and obtain coverage.

Providing a drug benefit in Medicare didn't need to be so complicated. Most of these difficulties exist because the plan proposed by President Bush and passed by his allies in Congress privatized the program. Rather than adding a drug benefit to Medicare and providing coverage for medications the same way we do for doctors visits and hospital stays,

We can do better. I'm working with colleagues, advocates, and other experts to fix pitfalls in the Part D drug program so we can provide senior citizens and people with disabilities affordable, stable prescription drug coverage.

### DO YOU QUALIFY FOR EXTRA HELP?

If you are eligible for extra assistance with your Part D drug plan costs, you may still be able to enroll without penalty this year. If your income is less than \$14,700 as an individual or \$19,800 for a couple, and you have limited assets, you may qualify.

Call the Social Security Administration at **1-800-772-1213** or visit them online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp) to apply or get more information.

## KEY VOTES CONGRESS HAS RECENTLY TAKEN

**Darfur Peace & Accountability Act – HR 3127:** A bill to move forward US efforts to stop genocide in Darfur. Stark was a cosponsor of the legislation and voted YES. Passed the House 416-3 and is awaiting action in the Senate.

**National Defense Authorization Act – HR 5122:** Legislation that guides funding for the Defense Department. The bill continues spending on outdated defense systems that will not defend our country in modern warfare. Stark voted NO, passed the House by a vote of 396-31 and is awaiting Senate action.

**Safe & Timely Interstate Placement of Foster Children Act – HR 5403:** Stark co-authored this bipartisan legislation with Rep. DeLay to facilitate the proper and timely placement of children in foster homes across state lines. Passed by the House and Senate and has been signed into law by the President.

**Lobby Accountability and Transparency Act – HR 4975:** Legislation promoted as putting an end to Congressional ethics violations and the untoward influence of lobbyists. However, it does little to change the status quo and prevent ongoing abuses of the public trust. Stark voted NO, passed the House by a mostly party line vote of 217-213. The Senate passed a different lobbying reform bill and a conference is pending.

**American-Made Energy & Good Jobs Act – HR 5429:** Rep. Pombo's Orwellian-named bill has little to do with energy independence or job creation. The legislation would open Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration. Drilling would devastate this pristine land and wildlife – for at most a 6-month supply of oil. Stark voted NO, passed the House by a vote of 225-201 and is not expected to move forward in the Senate.



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This mailing was prepared, published  
and mailed at taxpayer expense.

*Pete Stark*  
M.C.  
PRESORTED STANDARD

## PETE'S TOWN MEETINGS

### LET ME HEAR FROM YOU.

Please contact my Fremont office, send me an email or visit my website for assistance with federal agencies, updates on important legislation, and information on visits to Washington, D.C.

**Fremont Office**  
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**Website**  
[www.house.gov/stark](http://www.house.gov/stark)

**SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2006**

**FREMONT**  
**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**  
Fremont Senior Center  
40086 Paseo Padre Parkway

**HAYWARD**  
**10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**  
City Hall, Council Chambers  
777 B Street

**ALAMEDA**  
**12:00 Noon – 1:00 p.m.**  
Bay Farm Elementary School  
Multipurpose Room  
200 Aughinbaugh



You can sign up for my  
e-mail newsletters at  
[www.house.gov/stark](http://www.house.gov/stark)