

**Environmental Defense • National Environmental Trust
National Wildlife Federation • Natural Resources Defense Council
The Nature Conservancy • Union of Concerned Scientists • The Wilderness Society**

Members of the Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

October 31, 2007

Dear Members of the Environment and Public Works Committee,

We are writing to highlight the mounting urgency of action on global warming and encourage prompt action by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. A new study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences warns that the global buildup of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has accelerated unexpectedly rapidly in this decade. Similarly, recent evidence from the Arctic demonstrates that the greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere are changing our climate far more rapidly than scientists have predicted.

These and other findings underscore the need for prompt action to reduce the pollution that is causing global warming. Time is running out for effective action, and we need to get started now. The Department of Energy is forecasting that U.S. greenhouse gas emissions will increase by more than 30% by 2030 without action. The longer we delay action, the greater the impacts and risks, and the more dramatically we will have to cut emissions in future years to achieve the same results.

Consequently, we applaud Senators Lieberman and Warner for their leadership and the subcommittee for debating S. 2191 with the goal of reporting a bill to the full committee. We further applaud Chairman Boxer for seeking to expeditiously report a bill out of the full committee this fall. We would also like to thank Senator Baucus for his expressed support of S. 2191.

We acknowledge and thank the sponsors for making important improvements in the bill from their August outline. We also thank Senators Sanders and Lautenberg and other members of the subcommittee and committee who are working to strengthen the bill as it moves through the process.

It is vitally important that the Senate have a full and open debate on global warming action. We therefore ask all members of the Environment and Public Works Committee and its subcommittee of jurisdiction to work together to deliver a strong, bipartisan bill to the full Senate this year.

Sincerely,

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