

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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January 9, 1998

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our concerns about the commitments made by the United States in the Kyoto Climate Change Protocol.

As you know, all of the decisions made in Kyoto were by consensus. Therefore, the United States delegation either agreed or failed to object to each part of the Kyoto Protocol. By failing to object, the United States agreed to several key provisions of the Protocol that included decisions by the conference:

- Agreeing to delete provisions of the draft protocol that would allow developing countries to voluntarily join the binding targets and timetables of the treaty. Under the draft as approved by the U.S. delegation, developing countries are prohibited from joining in the effort to limit greenhouse gas emissions necessary to prevent global warming.
- Accepting the European Union's "Bubble" grouping all nations together that will ease the burden of the protocol on each member state. Our chief negotiator, Under Secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat, admitted to congressional observers of the negotiation that this bubble puts Americans at a disadvantage against their European competitors.
- Delaying consideration of emissions trading and joint implementation projects critical to reducing the cost of Americans to comply with the Protocol. These critical issues will not be considered until a conference scheduled for late 1998 when China and the G-77 group of developing nations are likely to deny consensus, seeking to undermine these critical provisions.
- Allowing new binding commitments to be placed on the U.S. by the G-77 group of developing nations who can command the 3/4 vote necessary to amend the Protocol. Under the Kyoto Protocol, U.S. industry and labor's future plans can be disrupted by new burdens imposed by a simple vote in future climate change conferences.

- Including the emissions generated by the critical domestic training and operations of U.S. armed forces necessary to maintain peace around the world. While multilateral operations were exempted from the emission limits of the Protocol, the vast bulk of our military's domestic training and operations will fall under the Protocol's limits. This will generate pressure from the U.N. to curtail the training and operations that have made our armed forces second to none.

In addition, we understand that under the emissions limits and trading provisions negotiated, the U.S. will purchase rights to emit 800 million metric tons of carbon from Russia. Using the State Department estimated cost of \$50 per metric ton, that will amount to over \$40 billion sent to Russia during the Protocol's first phase. This transfer of wealth represents a hidden tax on American consumers to provide a vast increase in foreign assistance to Russia. Under the terms of the Protocol, Russia would not have to abide by the current restrictions in our Foreign Assistance Act relating to human rights, terrorism, narcotics control and non-proliferation.

We also understand that the Protocol fails to exclude countries under U.N. sanctions, such as Iraq, or terrorist countries, such as Iran or Libya, from benefitting under the Protocol. If we are to continue our policy of turning rogue nations into pariah states, the Protocol must specifically exclude these nations from any benefits.

Since you have already agreed that the Protocol cannot be ratified and therefore will not be submitted to the Senate, we believe the U.S. should announce its intention to correct some of the decisions outlined above before moving forward on this issue. Given these concerns, we urge you not to sign the Protocol when it is opened for signature next March.

Sincerely,


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CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH


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JAMES A. TRAFICANT


DAN BURTON

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