

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1999

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ROGER BALLENTINE 
RE: OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES WEEKLY

Climate Change

Legislative

We have not resolved any of our remaining climate change issues (as described in last week's report). We continue to work hard to secure an additional \$100M in the Interior bill for energy efficiency programs and sinks research, and for an additional \$35M in the Foreign Operations bill for the Global Environment Facility. Finally, we hope to remove the anti-Kyoto rider from both the Foreign Operations and Commerce, Justice, State bills. The Senate passed Senator Roth's tax extenders package, which includes our proposed wind and biomass tax credit. Securing this credit, along with achieving the appropriations goals mentioned above, would provide us with a strong climate change success story for this year.

Diplomatic

The Fifth Conference of the Parties (COP-5) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change completed its first week in Bonn. Chancellor Schroeder made the biggest news so far by calling for the Protocol to enter into force by 2002. Our efforts this week focused on compliance rules, sinks, additional work on technology transfer and capacity building, and determining how to deter efforts by Saudi Arabia to include a process for compensating oil producing countries for their expected losses if the Kyoto targets are implemented. We have made good progress. However, Saudi Arabia, China and their allies have been obstructionist and will resist joining the efforts to address the array of complicated issues between the end of this conference and the start of COP-6, which will probably now be held between November 14-24 next year.

As anticipated, Secretary Richardson secured a very positive joint statement with India, suggesting India's willingness to pursue additional talks with us about ways to deal with the issue of climate change. The Vice President touted the agreement in his town hall meeting in New Hampshire this week.

Press, Science and Industry.

Reuters (10/28) reported that 25 top British firms have signed up to participate in a greenhouse gas emissions trading system. The system is being set up to minimize companies' costs under the government's Climate Change Levy, which goes into effect next year.

The Miami Herald (10/22) reported on a new study by NOAA that indicates that "humidity [is] likely to cause much of the pain of global warming," and that soaring heat indexes over the next 50 to 60 years may "significantly increase the yearly number of heat-related deaths in America – from about 1,200 now to several thousand, one expert says."

In Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Iowa, and West Virginia approximately 150 senior religious leaders signed public statements on the issue of global warming, voicing strong concern on the issue, urging specific action in the electric, oil, and transportation sectors (and on CAFÉ), and supporting the Kyoto Protocol. We met this week with the National Council of Churches of Christ, which has been very active in raising awareness of the climate change issue within their nationwide constituency, and is actively involved in planning for Earth Day 2000.

Lands Legacy

In our Interior and Commerce, State, Justice negotiations, we are pushing for significant additions to your Lands Legacy accounts. On the authorizing side, the Senate Energy Committee is scheduled to mark up legislation next week that would, in part, permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). A diverse group, co-chaired by Lady Bird Johnson, and including a large number of Governors, Mayors, corporate CEO's, Hollywood personalities, environmental leaders and others ran a full page add in several major newspapers calling for enactment of permanent funding for LWCF and other environmental priorities.

cc: The Vice President
John Podesta
Martin Baily
Maria Echaveste
Steve Ricchetti
Charles Burson
George Frampton
Neal Lane
Joe Lockhart
Gene Sperling
Larry Stein
Jim Steinberg