

February 7, 2007

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boxer,

On behalf of World Wildlife Fund's 1.2 million members, I write to thank you for introducing the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act. This forward-looking legislation would put the United States on a path to deliver greenhouse gas emission reductions in line with what the best scientific evidence suggests is necessary to prevent dangerous interference with the climate system. Such reductions are essential to biodiversity conservation.

We already see sobering effects of climate change in the places where we work. The loss of Arctic sea ice is endangering the survival of two iconic species: the polar bear and walrus. Coral bleaching caused by warmer ocean temperatures is devastating reefs in the Florida Keys, Mesoamerica and Asia's Coral Triangle. Melting glaciers are a severe threat to water security in the Himalayas. Recent record droughts in the Amazon imperil the world's largest rainforest.

These examples demonstrate the compelling need for the emissions reductions called for in the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act. They are also harbingers of worse to come even in the event that this legislation is adopted. Current and unavoidable future emissions that are already locked into the climate system will bring further consequences. This requires that the United States take action to prepare for such effects and their costs. WWF urges you, therefore, to incorporate climate adaptation as an essential component of your vision for a comprehensive global warming response.

Certain activities are critical for both adaptation and mitigation. Improved forest management and conservation can increase resilience to climate change. At the same time, reducing emissions from deforestation is an important piece of the global effort to stabilize atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations. We hope you will advocate the inclusion of forests in a post-Kyoto international agreement, with reduced deforestation added to cuts in industrial emissions and not just as offsets.

WWF commends you on your leadership in tackling the greatest environmental challenge of our time. We will continue our work to mobilize governments, businesses and the public to promote solutions to combat global warming. We look forward to working with you on this most important endeavor.

Sincerely,

