



**World Wildlife Fund**

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June 3, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Speaker:

On behalf of our 1.5 million members in the United States and 5 million members worldwide, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) appreciates your leadership in passage of the FY 2009 Budget Conference Agreement, which provides funding increases to critical domestic and international conservation programs that support our work around the globe to protect the future of nature.

The conference agreement provides \$38.3 billion in discretionary budget authority for the FY09 International Affairs Budget (Function 150), which is \$4 billion above the FY08 base enacted level. A portion of this funding supports many important biodiversity, climate and natural resource conservation programs administered by the Agency for International Development, the Department of State, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and the Department of Treasury, as well as multilateral environmental programs administered by the Global Environment Facility. Partnerships with these agencies have helped protect natural resources in the Amazon, the Congo Basin and East Africa, the Himalayas, and the Mekong. Two of WWF's most profoundly important transnational conservation initiatives currently underway are in Southeast Asia – protecting the forests of Borneo, with benefits in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation; and protecting the coral reef ecosystems of the Indo-Pacific waters, with benefits in fisheries management and global food security. Both of these efforts receive invaluable support from the U.S. Government through funding authorized in Function 150.

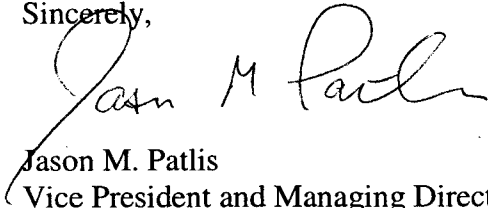
The conference agreement also provides \$38.6 billion in FY 2009 discretionary spending for Natural Resources and Environment Budget (Function 300), which is \$1.9 billion above the FY 2008 enacted level, and \$3.9 billion over the President's FY 2009 request. This funding supports both domestic and international natural resource programs administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency. These agencies are key partners in WWF's efforts towards protecting the world's endangered species; sustainably managing fisheries and reducing bycatch within U.S. waters and on the high seas; reducing deforestation and degradation of forest lands; and protecting clean water resources in important U.S. ecoregions such as the Southeast and the Chihuahuan Desert.

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WWF also recognizes the significant advancements that this agreement makes towards addressing climate change through investments in clean and renewable energy and in energy efficiency. These advancements will be critical if the U.S. is to play a constructive role towards a global deal on climate change.

WWF greatly appreciates your leadership on these national and global priorities, and commends the work of your staff. We look forward to working together in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason M. Patlis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "P".

Jason M. Patlis  
Vice President and Managing Director  
U.S. Government Relations