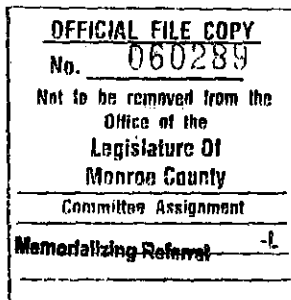




Monroe County Legislature

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August 7, 2006

To the Honorable
Monroe County Legislature
407 County Office Building
39 West Main Street
Rochester, NY 14614

Re: **Memorializing the United States Congress to readily pass, and President George W. Bush to sign H.R. 5642, the Safe Climate Act, and Begin Progressive Measures to Fight the Irrevoicable Effects of Global Climate Change**

Honorable Legislators:

According to the EPA, the period 1985 to 2000 held ten of the warmest years in the 20th century. The global mean surface temperature has increased 0.6-1.2 degrees Fahrenheit over temperatures recorded beginning in the 1800s. Since the pre-industrial age, atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide have increased by 30%, methane by 100% and nitrous oxide by 15%. In January 1995, an ice chunk the size of Rhode Island broke from the Antarctic glacier and fell into the sea.

There is no doubt, global climate change, also referred to as global warming, is present and affecting our atmospheric system. Scientists continue to deliberate as to the specific consequences of those affects, but in any event, they will and already have begun to drastically impact our ecology and the world as we know it.

In 1989, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a report entitled "The Potential Effects of Global Climate Change on the United States." In the report, measures and 'strategic planning' were recommended on how the nation would be able to prepare for the destructive ramifications of global climate change, assuming that no preventative measures had been taken prior. In 1992, the United States participated in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the objective being to brainstorm measures that could be taken in order to prevent "dangerous anthropogenic interference" with our climate system. For several years, governments worldwide have been well informed as to the potential impacts and future global crisis resulting from global climate change, yet many consistently fail to act.

The United States holds only 5% of the world's population, but annually produces 20% of the world's total greenhouse gas emissions. U.S. Congressman Henry Waxman of California, along with 32 of his colleagues, have submitted bill H.R. 5642, the Safe Climate Act for consideration. This legislation calls for an emissions reduction plan that will attempt to freeze greenhouse gas emissions at their 2009 levels. Beginning in 2011, a cap of a 2% reduction in annual emissions would be set and achieved in 2020, when emission levels potentially will be reduced to 1990 emission levels. From there, the emissions cap would be set to a 5% reduction annually. The ultimate goal: to reach emission levels that are 80% below 1990 levels by the year 2050.

This is not the first time that the issue of global climate change has been brought to the floor of Congress to be debated, however it is the most crucial time. The world has already begun to see the impacts from a warmer global core temperature; stronger and more violent storm systems, increasing average daily temperatures, melting glaciers, and a constant rising sea level. If passed, the Safe Climate Act will not only help to lower carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere, but it will also help in the fight to preserve the ozone layer, and prevent toxic air pollution.

Therefore, we ask you to join us in urging the United States Congress to pass and President George W. Bush to sign bill H.R. 5642 into law, legislation critical to slowing global climate change through the significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Respectfully submitted,

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