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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

March 17, 2008

Dear Member of the Committee on Foreign Relations:

We are writing to inform the Members of the Committee on Foreign Relations of our intent to make international climate change an additional focus of the Committee for the remainder of this Congress.

In the 109th and 110th Congresses, the Committee has reported a Sense of the Senate Resolution calling on the Executive Branch to take a leadership role in international climate negotiations.

The next two years of negotiations will be crucial for international climate talks. The United States is party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At a meeting in Bali, Indonesia in December 2007, the Bush Administration agreed to a "post-Bali roadmap," which includes a scheduled series of international meetings in 2008, with the goal of achieving a new climate change treaty by late 2009. This is an ambitious goal, one that is complicated by the American election schedule and the time it will take for a new Administration to establish itself and for the Senate to confirm key personnel. Thus, as the committee of jurisdiction, we want to make sure we understand and anticipate the outcome of these negotiations.

The Bush Administration has also proposed the creation of the Clean Technology Fund, to be administered by the World Bank under a special arrangement with key donor nations. The President's budget proposes \$400 million this year, of an eventual \$2 billion American investment. The Administration intends to send the Committee authorizing language for this initiative, which we intend to review and consider. There are numerous questions about how this fund will be administered and how it will relate with World Bank and other international environmental funds.

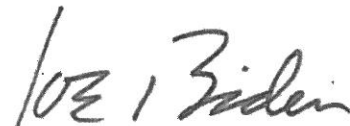
Pursuant to Committee jurisdiction over international agreements, we encourage Committee Members to give this important issue the attention it deserves. Members' presence at international negotiations over the next two years will both keep the Senate informed of developments and keep other parties aware of the importance of Senate concurrence in any ultimate agreement.

We expect that the Committee, as well as the Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Economic Affairs, and International Environmental Protection, will hold hearings throughout this year's legislative session to examine these issues.

Additionally, we intend to convene a series of briefings for Members, to be provided by leading international public and private figures central to the debate on a possible future climate change agreement.

Finally, we will be directing our Committee staff to undertake a study of the various issues confronting the United States in addressing international climate change, and to complete an official report for the Committee, to be published before the end of this Congress.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Chairman



Richard G. Lugar
Ranking Member