



# CLIMATE WATCH

## BRIEF

AN INFORMATION UPDATE FROM THE GLOBAL CLIMATE COALITION

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Volume 5, Issue 16

**JOB LOSSES  
UNDER KYOTO  
AGREEMENT**

### **ANTI-KYOTO PRESSURE BUILDS**

#### **MORE THAN 15,000 SCIENTISTS URGE U.S. TO REJECT KYOTO**

*“There is no convincing scientific evidence that human release of carbon dioxide, methane, or other greenhouse gases is causing or will, in the foreseeable future, cause catastrophic heating of the Earth’s atmosphere and disruption of the Earth’s climate.”*

This unequivocal statement — signed by more than 15,000 American scientists including at least one former president of the National Academy of Sciences — is contained in a petition that will shortly be presented to the U.S. Congress and the Clinton Administration. The petition, promoted by a number of independent scientists who say they are increasingly disturbed by the misuse of science and deliberate deception of the American public by global warming advocates, calls on the U.S. Government to reject the Kyoto agreement.

“We urge the United States Government to reject the global warming agreement that was written in Kyoto, Japan in December, 1997, and any similar proposals,” the petition states. It adds: “The proposed limits on greenhouse gases would harm the environment, hinder the advance of science and technology, and damage the health and welfare of mankind.”

The petition is accompanied by a 30-page paper detailing misrepresentations by the UN’s International Panel on Climate Change and other official bodies. The petition and supporting materials are available at <http://zwr.oism.org/pproject/>

#### **DINGELL, SENSENBRENNER EXPRESS OUTRAGE OVER ESTRADA COMMENTS: ‘UNPRECEDENTED DISPLAY OF ARROGANCE’**

The Argentine diplomat who chaired the Kyoto climate meeting proved distinctly undiplomatic during a brief visit to Washington, March 16. In the space of a few hours Raul Estrada-Oyuela managed to insult the U.S. Congress as being “out of touch with the rest of the world,” prompted a bipartisan demand that the Kyoto treaty be scrapped, and further stiffened already strong resistance to the treaty in both the House and Senate.

Alabama	62,500
Alaska	2,600
Arizona	125,000
Arkansas	17,300
California	411,000
Colorado	40,000
Connecticut	30,600
Delaware	4,000
Florida	76,000
Georgia	45,300
Hawaii	14,600
Idaho	14,600
Illinois	240,000
Indiana	104,000
Iowa	25,300
Kansas	30,600
Kentucky	50,600
Louisiana	48,000
Maine	9,300
Maryland	46,600
Massachusetts	34,600
Michigan	125,300
Minnesota	40,000
Mississippi	

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Estrada told the Washington press corps that "Congress is acting as though the rest of the world doesn't exist — not only on this matter, but on others . . . they are acting in isolation . . . perhaps they need to get more in touch with the rest of the world."

Members of both houses were furious. In a joint "Dear Colleague" letter, House Science Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI) and Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) accused Estrada of "an unprecedented display of arrogance" that only increased the probability that the Kyoto treaty would never be ratified by the United States.

The text of the Sensenbrenner-Dingell letter follows:

"We want to bring your attention to the attached article, *U.N. envoy slams U.S. lawmakers on warming treaty*, which appeared in The Washington Times on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Upset that Members of Congress dared to criticize the Kyoto treaty, the self-proclaimed "architect" of the U.N. climate treaty, Raul Estrada-Oyuela, the Argentine Ambassador to China, became the Kyoto demolition man.

"On his way to the U.N. headquarters in New York to sign the treaty on behalf of Argentina, Mr. Estrada put on an unprecedented display of arrogance and self importance that increased the probability the treaty will never be ratified by the U.S. Senate. Mr. Estrada proclaimed "Congress is acting as though the rest of the world doesn't exist, not only on this matter but on others. Perhaps they need to get in touch with the rest of the world," he continued.

"Mr. Estrada's remarks make it clear that the Administration should reject signing this Kyoto treaty and start anew. The treaty is seriously flawed — so flawed, in fact, that it cannot be salvaged. It is based on immature science, costs too much, leaves too many procedural questions unanswered, is grossly unfair because developing countries are not required to participate, and will do nothing to solve the speculative problem it is intended to solve.

"We should do what is right for generation of Americans, not just react to international pressure. The history of the U.N. proceedings that led to the Kyoto treaty does not inspire confidence that the U.S. will be treated fairly once power over our future is transferred. We are here to represent the interests of our constituents and the United States — not the interests of the U.N. bureaucrats or other nations."

A Senate spokesman, recalling Estrada's comments in Kyoto that the U.S. Senate is "a nuisance," said that it seemed obvious that the Argentinian "doesn't like democratic legislative bodies."

Missouri	28,000
Montana	57,300
Nebraska	14,600
Nevada	28,000
New Hampshire	30,600
New Jersey	6,600
New Mexico	159,600
New York	12,000
North Carolina	145,300
North Dakota	133,000
Ohio	2,600
Oklahoma	77,300
Oregon	26,600
Pennsylvania	14,600
Rhode Island	44,000
South Carolina	2,600
South Dakota	32,000
Tennessee	6,600
Texas	48,000
Utah	165,300
Vermont	12,000
Virginia	1,300
Washington	84,000
West Virginia	60,000
Wisconsin	9,300
Wyoming	87,000
	9,300

(Source: WEFA)



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*"With each passing day, it becomes more apparent that the stringent targets and timetables agreed to in Kyoto are unrealistic and impractical. We urge the President to reject the treaty, start over, and work closely with Congress."*

— Gail McDonald, president, Global Climate Coalition

## **GCC ASSAILS ADMINISTRATION'S "BACK DOOR" POLICY**

Bowing to Congressional opposition, the White House dropped an EPA proposal to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from its utility deregulation plan unveiled March 25, but boosted EPA's authority to cap nitrogen oxide emissions and would force utilities to generate 5.5 percent of their output from renewable fuels by 2010.

Administration officials indicated that they would seek other ways to introduce the curbs on carbon dioxide emissions. Global Climate Coalition president Gail McDonald assailed the Administration's attempt to use unrelated laws and policies to implement the Kyoto treaty "by the back door" before the Senate had a chance to consider it.

The utility deregulation proposal, she said, shows the Administration "is trying to end-run Congress and implement the treaty on its own." It was clear that the Administration still had every intention of including a CO2 cap and trade provision by some means. "These matters have nothing to do with deregulation," she said. "They have no place in the deregulation debate."

## **DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE FIRST TO SIGN KYOTO TREATY**

The Kyoto Protocol was officially opened for signing March 16 and the first to sign were developing countries with nothing to lose but much to gain financially from the treaty. By month's end a total of 10 countries had signed, of which only one — Switzerland — was industrialized. The largest developing country to sign was Argentina. Others were mostly tiny island states apparently fearful of being drowned if the worst global warming predictions ever came true: Antigua and Barbuda, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa and the Seychelles.

## **ANNOUNCER OF "WARMEST YEAR" WINS PROMOTION**

The man who announced that 1997 was "the warmest year on record," despite satellite data showing it was actually one of the coolest of the past 20 years, has been rewarded with a promotion. Climatologist Thomas Karl, senior scientist at NOAA's National Climatic Data Center, was promoted to director on April 1. His controversial declaration that 1997 was the warmest year was based on combining land temperatures with water temporarily warmed by El Nino. Without the warmer water, 1997 slipped to fifth warmest on land (since 1880).

In 1989, however, Karl demonstrated in a published research paper that when land temperatures were corrected for the urban heat-island effect, the years around 1940 emerged as the warmest. But that was then. Measurements from U.S. Weather satellites and balloons, meanwhile, continue to show a gradual cooling, with 1997 the seventh coldest year since the measurements began in 1979.

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## **NATURE MAGAZINE'S ETHICS QUESTIONED: PUBLICATION ACCUSED OF RUSHING REVIEW PROCESS AT VICE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST**

*Nature*, the proud UK-based scientific publication, has been accused of allowing itself to become a tool of Vice President Al Gore's political campaign on global warming by rushing the peer review process of a controversial study questioning the accuracy of satellite temperature readings. The process was rushed at the request of the Vice President's staff, according to reports.

At the same time, neither the authors of the new study nor the magazine would agree to the normal professional practice of delaying publication until a response could be included from the scientists whose work was being questioned.

The story of *Nature's* agreement to rush the review process to accommodate the Vice President was told last week in the inaugural edition of a new biweekly, *The Climate Change Report*,\* and partly in a "Dear Colleague" letter by Congressman John Peterson (R-PA). Peterson noted that the authors had already distributed their article widely to political sources without waiting for peer review or publication. "This misuse of research in order to put pressure on Congress is absolutely appalling," he wrote.

The reason the Vice President was so anxious to see the article in print was that it appeared to have discovered an error in the readings of U.S. Weather satellites, which have shown a consistent cooling trend in the earth's atmosphere over the past two decades. A staff member reported that Gore was "ecstatic" over the study and wanted to immediately use it in his speeches.

However, the scientists responsible for the U.S. Weather satellite data, John Christy and Roy Spencer, while acknowledging the technical error, noted that it made no difference to the satellite findings of a global cooling trend. Their detailed response will be submitted to *Nature*. The magazine's editors declined to answer questions.

## **NEW RESEARCH CONTRADICTS WARMING THEORY**

New research has found that the ice sheet across southern Greenland is not growing, contrary to the statements of global warming proponents who have often cited a thickening ice sheet on Greenland as evidence of global warming.

The study, published in the March 27 issue of *Science*, found "no significant change in the overall state of the Greenland ice sheet," said University of Missouri-Columbia researcher Curt Davis, lead author of the study.

*"By the middle of the next century, global warming will cause the Everglades to be flooded, over-heat millions of acres of cold-water fish habitat and dry out wetlands needed by ducks and other animals . . . and sea levels will rise to inundate 5,000 square miles of land, said David Gardner, an assistant administrator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency."*

— Orlando Sentinel, March 24

