

cab-commerce

To: Todd Stern, 456-2215
Rosina Bierbaum, 456-6025
Beth Viola, 456-2710
Dirk Forrister, 343-1162

FACSIMILE

Fax #: See above
Re: Climate Change
Date: November 6, 1997
Pages: 4, including this cover sheet.

I would like to discuss the following. Please give me a call on 482-6055.

Thank you.

From the desk of...

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DRAFT

NOAA 97-

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EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
4 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time
11/13/97

400 YEARS OF ARCTIC DATA PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO CLIMATE CHANGE

American and Canadian scientists have completed a comprehensive analysis of 400 years worth of environmental data from the Arctic region, the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced today. The data show unprecedented changes in the Arctic environment have resulted from natural climate variability working together with human-induced increased concentrations of atmospheric trace-gases.

Much of the research was funded by the National Science Foundation through its Arctic System Science (ARCSS) Paleoclimates of Arctic Lakes and Estuaries (PALE) Initiative with support in Canada from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Polar Continental Shelf Project. The scientists -- from NOAA and U.S. and Canadian universities -- report on their work in the Nov. 14 issue of *Science* magazine.

"The climate of the Arctic has been changing rapidly, with important consequences for many parts of the Arctic system," said Jonathan T. Overpeck, head of NOAA's Paleoclimatology Program and coordinator of this project. "The most notable pattern of change is the near ubiquitous transition from unusually cold conditions of the 19th century, to peak warm conditions of the 20th century."

(more)

(2)

Between 1840 and the mid-20th century, the Arctic warmed to the highest levels of the past four centuries. This warming has caused dramatic retreats of glaciers, thawing of permafrost and sea-ice, and changes in terrestrial and lake ecosystems. Changes in the Arctic can have significant impacts on the rest of the Earth's climate system by changing the temperature gradient between high and low latitudes, which drives the circulation of the atmosphere.

Although significant warming, particularly after 1920, may be related to increases in atmospheric trace-gases, the initiation of the warming in the mid-19th century suggests that natural variations -- increased solar irradiance, decreased volcanic activity, and factors internal to the climate system --also played roles in driving the post-1840's warming trend.

To study climatic changes that occurred before instruments were widely available, the scientists used natural archives of past climate variations such as lake and marine sediments, ice cores from glaciers, and tree rings. Generation of these paleoclimatic data involved extensive field sampling of the lakes, glaciers and trees, followed by careful laboratory analyses. The use of multiple proxy sources allowed the scientists to get broad geographic coverage and also to cross-check among the different proxies. The results of this work summarize multi-century climate records at 29 locations around the Arctic, and furnish a new 400-year Arctic-wide average temperature record.

"Before these studies began, we had only a few decades of instrumental measurements from the Arctic, so our view of climate variations in this region was very limited," said Ray Bradley, head of the Department of Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts, and a major contributor to the research. "By extending the climate record through the use of these natural recorders of climate, we were able to place the recent changes in a longer term perspective."

The five-year effort provides scientists with significant insight into how climatic change has affected the Arctic in the past, and how the Arctic is likely to be impacted by climatic change in the future, as greenhouse gases continue to accumulate in the atmosphere.

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DRAFT

Mother nature and humans generating increased emissions of greenhouse gases contributed to an unprecedented warming in the cold Arctic in the 20th century, a phenomenon that could lead to a general warming of the Earth's climate and significant changes in its ecosystem, according to a recent study by U.S. and Canadian scientists, the Commerce Department said.

Between 1840 and the mid-20th century, the Arctic warmed to the highest levels of the past four centuries, causing dramatic retreats of glaciers, thawing of permafrost and sea-ice and changes in terrestrial and lake ecosystems, according to the study published in the Nov. 14 issue of *Science* magazine, the department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.

Although significant warming in the Arctic, particularly after 1920, may be related to increases in greenhouse gases, the initiation of the warming in the mid 19th century suggests that natural variations, such as increased solar irradiance, decreased volcanic activity and factors internal to the climate system, also played roles in driving the region's post-1840s warming trend, the scientists said.

(Pick up as needed from original release)

AUG 15 1997

MEMORANDUM TO: TODD STERN
STEPHEN SILVERMAN
SHELLEY FIDLER

FROM: JEFFREY HUNKER

SUBJECT: Plans for Climate Change Outreach by Secretary Daley

Secretary Daley is deeply committed to leading the consultation with the business community on climate change issues. Major events that he will participate in leading up to the White House Conference include:

- September 15: A CEO dinner that will bring business leaders together with the Cabinet (Secretaries Daley, Albright, Rubin, and Pena) and White House officials.
- September 18 (tentative): A regional event/ conference together with Secretary Pena. Current plans are for a tour/event at a steel mill in Burns Harbor, Indiana -- highlighting energy efficiency -- followed by a roundtable or small conference.
- September 30 (tentative): We are exploring the possibility of a second regional event/conference.
- NOAA Weather Broadcasters Conference: If the Secretary's China trip plans to not interfere, Secretary Daley will participate in this event.

Please call me if you would like to discuss (482 6055).

Thank you.

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08/12/97

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Trade Policy Matters
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Ms. Karen Zahler
Attorney at Law
K & F Industries, Inc.

To: Todd Stern/ Kris Balderston
Fax #: 456 2215/456 2525
Re:
Date: July 21, 1997
Pages: 3, including this cover sheet.

FACSIMILE

Attached please find the outline of Commerce Department outreach on the climate issue.
Please contact me if you would like to discuss.

From the desk of...

Jeffrey A. Hunker
Deputy Assistant to the Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

202 482 6055
Fax: 202 482 4636

MEMORANDUM TO: TODD STERN
Staff Secretary

KRIS BALDERSTON
Cabinet Affairs

FROM: Jeffrey Hunker 
Commerce Department

SUBJECT: Commerce Outreach on Climate Change

The issue of climate change is important to the Commerce Department. Within the Department are responsibilities for the science, economic analysis, and competitive impacts of any actions taken. Recognizing the critical importance of this issue, Secretary Daley has committed to making climate change one of his top priorities.

Secretary Daley recognizes the need for effective outreach and has already underway much of the following agenda:

-- **Speeches:** The Secretary has already delivered one address on climate change (attached), and will be doing more. His remarks were well received.

-- **Regional Conferences:** In support of the lead-up to the White House Conference this fall, Secretary Daley is prepared to organize and chair a series of regional conferences on climate change (possibly in cooperation with the Energy Department). Later this week Secretary Daley will meet with Secretary Pena to discuss this agenda.

-- **Business Outreach:** The Secretary has already met to discuss climate change with the leaders of many major US businesses. This will continue in a variety of fora, including:

- *a series of small group dinners with CEO's and key members of the Administration.* These will be taking place in the coming weeks. Attached is a prospective list of invitees to these dinners;

- *other small group meetings or one-on-ones with business leaders, already on-going;*

- *possible larger group meetings with the 'Washington rep' community and roundtable discussions.*

-- **The President's Council on Sustainable Development (PCSD):** The PCSD has been charged with developing recommendations on implementing the post-Kyoto agenda.

The Commerce Department will play a key role in this process -- Under Secretary Baker co-chairs the Climate Change Task Force, and Secretary Daley co-chairs the International Task Force.

- **Editorials:** Secretary Daley will be visible in editorials and letters to the editor on this topic.

It is important to note that the Secretary feels strongly that an effective process of consultation with key constituencies *must* include sharing key elements of our options and analysis with outside groups. In the proper formats -- like the small group dinners with CEO's that are anticipated -- sharing this base of information will produce useful ideas and even support from business leaders who realize that their ideas do count.

In addition to Secretarial outreach and consultation, other parts of the Commerce Department will be active:

- **Science outreach:** NOAA scientists are among the leaders in climate science. Dr. Baker has committed to extensive outreach by scientists to the public on the issue of climate change. As part of this outreach, reflecting NOAA's National Weather Service, engaging the meteorological community (particularly media weather announcers) will be a priority to be pursued with the help of other agencies.

- **Industry Sector Advisory Committees:** Commerce and USTR jointly manage 21 advisory committees that provide input on trade related issues of importance to their sectors. In the last 18 months, their purview has been expanded to include environmental issues that may affect economic competitiveness. Consultation with ISAC's has been ongoing; we are developing special channels to increase the frequency of consultation with key ISAC members as the issue of climate change becomes more important.

- **Sub-Cabinet Outreach:** The sub-Cabinet has and will continue to be active in speaking on climate change.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss these ideas further (482 6055).
Thank you.