

Box 1

Meetings- Polling/WWF, 9/23/97

Todd's Meeting with John Topping, 10/17/97

Climate- Meetings Requested

Meetings- Columbia

Meetings- Church, 9/23/97

Meetings- Cabinet

Meetings- Auto, 9/23/97

Climate Change Event, Thursday, July 24, 1997, 1:50 - 3 p.m.

Events- Southeast Workshop

Events- September 15

Events- September 11

July 24 Photos

Events- Childcare

Block Island

August 4- Events

Meetings- Hi-Tech

Meetings- Manufacturing

Event Photos

Weather Event

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Block
Island

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Post-it® Fax Note 7671		Date 7/25	# of pages 2
To Todd STERN	From Michael Oppenheimer	Co. E.D.F.	
Co./Dept.	Phone 212/505-2100	Fax 212/506-2375	
Phone #	Fax # 202/343-1162		

97 JUL 25 PM 12:55

National Headquarters
257 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10010
(212) 505-2100
Fax: 212-505-2375

July 25, 1997

Kathleen McGinty
Director
White House Office on Environmental Policy
Old Executive Office Building, Room 360
Washington DC 20501

97 JUL 25 PM 12:54

Dear Katie:

As a part time resident of Block Island for almost 25 years, a life-long environmentalist, and a contributing author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change who has devoted much of his career to the problem of global warming, I would like to endorse the invitation to President Clinton to attend a clam bake/town meeting sent to you and Todd Stern yesterday from the Committee for the Great Salt Pond, the local chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the Block Island Conservancy, the Block Island Land Trust, and the Town of New Shoreham (Block Island), to be held August 9 on Block Island. We would also arrange a tour of the areas of the island that are vulnerable to sea level rise and global warming, at the President's convenience.

The meeting will involve ordinary Block Island citizens as well as local environmentalists, who are concerned about the many ways in which climate change may negatively affect their lives, as well as the ecosystem of the island. Subjects to be addressed would be expected to include the following:

1. The sea-level rise associated with climate change is forecast to increasingly submerge and erode the beautiful beaches of Block Island. Moreover, the many cliffs of the island, including the spectacular Mohegan Bluffs, will be buffeted by the combination of sea level rise and the severe storms that are endemic here. Just a few years ago, the Southeast Lighthouse on the Island had to be moved back several hundred feet, due to a hundred years of cliff erosion. This was a massive undertaking, only possible with the contribution of federal, state, and local funds. We don't want to have move it again.

Project Office

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Washington, DC 20009
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1403 Arapahoe Ave.
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Austin, TX 78701
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6 Parnall Hall Marketplace
Boston, MA 02109
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2. The ecology of the Great Salt Pond, which is both one of the foremost marinas on the East Coast, and one of the most productive areas for clamming and fishing on the island, may be completely disrupted as a result of global warming. The coastal wetlands along the shore of the Pond may be completely inundated, leading to its destruction as a valuable nursery for many marine species.
3. The island is in the midst of one of the most severe droughts in memory, and the town has already had to be put on emergency water supply. This drought may be completely unrelated to global warming, but as an island, we are especially concerned about our limited amount of drinking water, and we are very concerned that droughts, as well as other weather extremes, are expected to become more common in the future with climate change. We are also concerned about the possibility that saltwater intrusion into our ground water may become more likely as a result.
4. Block Island residents already have one of the highest incidence levels of Lyme tick disease in the nation. It has come to our attention that the prevalence of Lyme disease, as well as many other vector-borne illnesses, is expected to increase with global warming.

These are just some of the issues that we as Block Island residents are worried about, in terms of the changes global warming may bring to our lives, as well as the lives of our children and grandchildren. Of all the decisions the President will make, this one has the largest potential to shape the future of this island, as well as our country as a whole over the next century. Please encourage the President to come to our town meeting, where we can share with him our concerns.

Sincerely,



Michael Oppenheimer
Chief Scientist

MO:gp

cc: Rosina Birbaum
Todd Stern

NAME	PHONE	TRAVEL SCHEDULE
Kim Tilley	456-7409	Out Friday Aug 22nd
Fred DuVal	456-2896	August 16 - August 30
David Sandalow	456-6543	Aug 4-8 and Aug 18-29
Tom Peterson	343-1093	Aug 7-8, 21-29, 14-15
Steve Seidel	343-1092	Aug 4-6
Dirk Forrister	343-1072	Friday or Monday at some point
Paul Risley	343-0484	None at present
David Beaubaire	456-2572	TBD
Julie Green	456-7150	August 1 - 27
Natalie Wymer	219-8271	None at present