



**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

*www.state.gov*

SEP - 5 2000

Dear Mr. Dingell:

This is in response to your July 25 letter regarding the ongoing international negotiations on climate change.

We agree that there are many challenging and complex issues that remain unresolved as we move toward the sixth Conference of Parties (COP-6) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), scheduled for November 2000 in The Hague.

We are committed to making as much progress as possible at COP-6. COP-6 has the potential to arrive at a number of important decisions that advance the interests of the United States, including possibly on such issues as the role of carbon sequestration, the nature of the compliance system and the rules for the Kyoto mechanisms (including emissions trading and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)). At the same time, we have made clear to our negotiating partners the importance of: (i) achieving maximum environmental effectiveness at low cost; and (ii) securing meaningful participation by key developing countries in combatting global climate change.

A reasonable approach on both the Kyoto mechanisms and carbon sinks will help assure that the fight against global warming proceeds in a manner that is practical, workable and acceptable to the American people. The steps we take now can have far-reaching consequences since addressing the threat of climate change will take several generations. We welcome your views on the climate change negotiations.

The Honorable  
John D. Dingell,  
Committee on Commerce,  
House of Representatives.

We hope this information has been helpful. Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Larkin".

Barbara Larkin  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs