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United States Senate

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Bruce Alberts, Ph.D.
President
National Academies of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20418

Dear Dr. Alberts:

I received a copy of the "Joint Science Academies' Statement: Global Response to Climate Change" yesterday and read it with great interest. I was pleased that the recommendations contained in that Statement mirror actions that our government has taken during the last five years to address the potential threat of climate change and reduce greenhouse gases.

As you know, the United States has committed billions of dollars to mobilize the science and technology community to enhance research and development efforts which will better inform climate change decisions. Indeed, the Administration has initiated a Climate Change Science Program Strategic Plan that the Academy reviewed and endorsed. Moreover, the United States is engaged in extensive international efforts on climate change, both through multilateral and bilateral activities. The United States is by far the largest funder of activities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

So, it was with dismay that I read the attached press release from the Royal Society, attempting to characterize the Joint Statement as a rebuke of U.S. policies on climate change. Statements such as:

"The current US policy on climate change is misguided. The Bush Administration has consistently refused to accept the advise of the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

contained in the press release are offensive and inconsistent with my understanding of the facts. Moreover, the interpretation of the NAS 1992 report on climate change is also contrary to my understanding of that document. Indeed, it appears to me that the Joint Statement is being hijacked by the Royal Society for reasons that have nothing to do with the advancement of scientific understanding of this most complex and controversial subject.

I would appreciate a clarification of the meaning of the Joint Science Academies Statement. I am also interested in the origins of this Statement and am very curious about the timing of the release of this Statement.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request

Sincerely,


Larry E. Craig
United States Senator

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