



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Office of the President

June 9, 2005

The Honorable Larry E. Craig
United States Senator
Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1203

Dear Senator Craig:

Thank you for your letter of June 8 concerning the statement by eleven science academies on Global Response to Climate Change. I was very dismayed when I read the press release issued by the Royal Society, especially the quote by Dr. Robert May contained in your letter. Their press release does not represent the views of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and it was not seen by us in advance of public release. The press release is not an accurate characterization of the eleven academies statement, and it is not an accurate characterization of our 1992 report. I have enclosed a copy of the letter that I sent yesterday to Dr. May, President of the Royal Society, expressing my displeasure with their press release.

The eleven academies statement was carefully prepared, and in our view it is consistent with the findings and recommendations of previous reports issued by our academy that underwent rigorous review. These reports include the Policy Implications of Greenhouse Warming: Mitigation, Adaptation, and the Science Base (1992) and Climate Change Science: An Analysis of Some Key Questions (2001).

Our hope was that eleven academies statement would be useful to policy makers as they deal with this important issue. Regarding the timing of the statement, the goal of the academies was to have the statement released prior to the G8 summit in July. The participating academies planned for a release in May, but preparation of the statement and securing its approval took longer than anticipated. As soon as the statement was approved by all of the academies, it was released a few days later.

I would be glad to provide any additional information or to answer any remaining questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Alberts".

Bruce Alberts
President