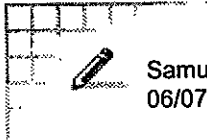


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Samuel A. Thornstrom
06/07/2002 07:17:48 PM

Record Type: Record

To: James Connaughton/CEQ/EOP@EOP, Phil Cooney/CEQ/EOP@EOP, Scott McClellan/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: final letter -- will appear on Monday

To the Editor:

"U.S. Sees Problems in Climate Change" (front page, June 3) says that the predictions of the U.S. Climate Action Report 2002 "present a sharp contrast to previous statements on climate change by the administration."

Actually, last year President Bush noted the rise in surface temperatures and concentrations of greenhouse gases, and said that "the National Academy of Sciences indicates that the increase is due in large part to human activity." He also cautioned that significant scientific uncertainties remain, emphasizing that "the policy challenge is to act in a serious and sensible way, given the limits of our knowledge."

The new report reinforces each of these points, discussing the "considerable uncertainty" about the science, natural variability of the climate, and the fact that "definitive prediction of potential outcomes is not yet feasible."

President Bush's policies are appropriate to the current state of climate-change science. By administering 67 programs to curb greenhouse gas emissions and investing \$4.5 billion each year in research and development, the administration is responsibly addressing this important issue.

JAMES L. CONNAUGHTON
Chairman, White House Council
on Environmental Quality
Washington, June 7, 2002