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SUBJECT:: [Fwd: FYI--Climate Change Administration Agrees Humans Responsible for Cli

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TEXT:

- att1.htm - Scott.Rayder.vcf===== ATTACHMENT 1 =====  
ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

TEXT:

<!doctype html public "-//w3c//dtd html 4.0 transitional//en">

<html>

FYI

<blockquote TYPE=CITE><b><font face="Times New Roman"><font size=+1><font color  
="#FF0000">Climate

Change</font> Administration Agrees Humans Responsible For Climate Effects,  
but Rejects Drastic Rules</font></font></b>

<br><font face="Arial">Senior Bush administration officials told a Senate  
committee July 11 they support recent findings that climatic changes over  
the past several decades probably are due mostly to human-caused emissions  
of greenhouse gases, but that mandating drastic reductions of those emissions  
is not an appropriate response by the United States.</font>

<p><font face="Arial">James Mahoney, assistant secretary for oceans and  
atmosphere at the Department of Commerce, said the "best known and most  
commonly observed" greenhouse-effect gas is carbon dioxide, primarily emitted  
from the burning of fossil fuel. He said he agreed with scientists who  
found atmospheric concentrations of carbon of 280 parts per million before  
the industrial revolution as compared to the 365 ppm that currently exists.  
But he said scientific models are not capable of predicting the exact greenhous  
e

gas effect on climate and temperature changes to come.</font>

<p><font face="Arial">Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), who chaired a hearing  
of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on global  
climate change and the recent U.S. Climate Action Report to the United  
Nations, pointed to the findings of the Bush administration's<i> U.S. Climate  
Action Report 2002</i>. The report, which studied the U.S. greenhouses

gas emission trends from 1990 through 1999 was written by career staff at the Environmental Protection Agency. They wrote that climatic changes observed over the past several decades probably are due mostly to human activities.</font>

<p><font face="Arial">Furthermore, the report said the growth rate of climate-changing

agents such as carbon dioxide emissions will accelerate and the "predicted warming" of 3 degrees Celsius (5.4 degrees Fahrenheit) "by the end of the 21st century is consistent with the assumptions about how clouds and atmospheric

relative humidity will react to global warming."</font>

<center>

<p><b><font face="Arial">Connaughton, Hubbard Target 'Intensity'</font></b>

<br><font face="Arial">James Connaughton, chairman of the Council on Environmental

Quality, and Glenn Hubbard, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, described the administration's immediate goal of reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 18 percent relative to the size of the economy in the next 10 years. This method, described as addressing greenhouse gas "intensity,"

"will set America on a path to slow the growth of greenhouse gas emissions and, if science justifies, to stop and then reverse the growth of emissions," Connaughton said.</font></center>

<p><font face="Arial">But applying this intensity approach to U.S. emissions over the period 1990 to 1999, Kerry said the intensity dropped by 17 percent, while the economy grew, and total emissions grew by 12 percent. Therefore, the new plan is not based on real reductions in emissions, Kerry said.</font>

<p><font face="Arial">Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), calling the intensity plan "ridiculous," pointed to a July 11 report by the National Wildlife Federation that said the Bush plan would allow more greenhouse gas pollution to occur at a faster rate than if the nation maintained the pollution trends of the past five years.</font>

<p><font face="Arial">The U.S. climate report marked the third formal national

communication to the United Nations under the 1992 Framework Convention on Climate Change. As a signatory to that framework, the United States must describe national circumstances, indicate future trends in emissions, and identify existing and planned policies and measures. The framework participants pledge to globally achieve "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropological interference with the climate system."</font>

<p><i><font face="Arial">The NWF report, Beneath the Hot Air, is available at<u> <font color="#0000FF">&lt;<a href="http://www.nwf.org/climate">http://www

.nwf.org/climate</a>></font></u>

on the World Wide Web.</font></i>

<p><i><font face="Arial">By Pamela Major</font></i>

<br>&nbsp;

<br><font face="Times New Roman">&nbsp;</font>&nbsp;</blockquote>

</html>

===== END ATTACHMENT 1 =====

===== ATTACHMENT 2 =====

ATT CREATION TIME/DATE: 0 00:00:00.00

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org:NOAA  
version:2.1  
email;internet:Scott.Rayder@noaa.gov  
title:Chief of Staff  
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===== END ATTACHMENT 2 =====