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Reid Hawley
memo



"The Earth's well-being is ... an issue important to America—and it's an issue that should be important to every nation and in every part of the world. My Administration is committed to a leadership role on the issue of climate change. We recognize our responsibility, and we will meet it—at home, in our hemisphere, and in the world."—George W. Bush, June 2001

Chapter 1

Introduction and Overview

With this pledge, President Bush reiterated the seriousness of climate change and ordered a Cabinet-level review of U.S. climate change policy. He requested working groups to develop innovative approaches that would: (1) be consistent with the goal of stabilizing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere; (2) be sufficiently flexible to allow for new findings; (3) support continued economic growth and prosperity; (4) provide market-based incentives; (5) incorporate technological advances; and (6) promote global participation.

The President's decision to take a deeper look at climate change policy arose from the recognition that the international dialogue begun to date lacked the requisite participatory breadth for a global response to climate change. At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted, with the ultimate objective of providing a higher quality of life