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AFFAIRS
BUDGET
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FOREIGN RELATIONS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3005

August 15, 2008

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The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are deeply concerned to learn that the National Center for Atmospheric Research has eliminated the Center for Capacity Building (CCB). You have acknowledged the threat which global warming poses to our country and to our planet. You have also emphasized the global nature of this problem and the need for an international response. Moreover, you have indicated that poverty and health concerns in developing countries are a major concern of your administration.

Unfortunately, your actions do not seem to match your words. Your administration continues to undermine scientific research on global warming, and has now eliminated a productive program which connected this research with the people who need it most.

The CCB helped developing countries anticipate and respond to the changes caused by global warming. Many of these countries, while they have done nothing to cause the problem, will unfortunately be hardest hit by droughts, floods, and rising sea levels. As the world's leading per capita emitter of greenhouse gas pollution, it is our moral responsibility to help them prepare for the changes which are unavoidable.

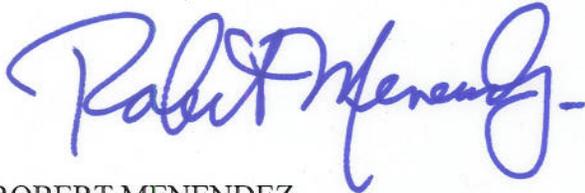
Instead of cutting climate change research, we should be expanding it. This is particularly true in the areas of environmental risk and international adaptation. Food insecurity, water shortages, and increases in tropical diseases threaten to undermine the security of all nations and could lead to greater incidence of international conflicts. Fighting global warming requires international cooperation, and eliminating a program aimed at helping developing countries develop the capacity to respond sends precisely the wrong signal.

Moreover, we are astounded that you would reduce our international efforts after agreeing to the Bali Action Plan and its December, 2009 deadline. We are rapidly approaching the next rounds of United Nations climate change negotiations in Accra, Ghana, and Pozdan, Poland. This is the worst possible time to eliminate the CCB program.

Now is the time for us to secure our place as world leaders on climate change, but the timing of your cuts may instead cause other nations to lose confidence in the international process or even to question the United States' commitment to solving the problem. We urge you to rededicate

your administration to global warming research, to fund the Center for Capacity Building, and to increase international aid for adaptation and mitigation.

Sincerely,



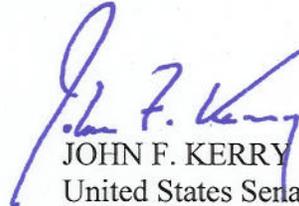
ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator



BERNARD SANDERS
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JOHN F. KERRY
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