

JOHN F. KERRY, MASSACHUSETTS, CHAIRMAN

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONNECTICUT
RUSSELL D. FEINGOLD, WISCONSIN
BARBARA BOXER, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY
BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND
ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., PENNSYLVANIA
JIM WEBB, VIRGINIA
JEANNE SHAHEEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
EDWARD E. KAUFMAN, DELAWARE
KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, NEW YORK

RICHARD G. LUGAR, INDIANA
BOB CORKER, TENNESSEE
JOHNNY ISAKSON, GEORGIA
JAMES E. RISCH, IDAHO
JIM DEMINT, SOUTH CAROLINA
JOHN BARRASSO, WYOMING
ROGER F. WICKER, MISSISSIPPI

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

DAVID MCKEAN, STAFF DIRECTOR
KENNETH A. MYERS, JR., REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

April 30, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to express our strong support for the establishment of an effective international regime to regulate the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), a class of extremely powerful greenhouse gases. By phasing down these gases, the global community will be able to achieve significant near-term climate change benefits.

HFCs are primarily used as substitute chemicals for ozone-depleting substances that are scheduled to be phased out under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol). While HFCs currently are not subject to regulation under the Protocol, they are an extremely potent greenhouse gas—the global warming potential of many HFCs is hundreds to thousands of times greater than that of carbon dioxide. Experts expect a significant expansion of HFC production and consumption over the next several decades. This expansion, if continued unabated, would effectively prevent the international community from reaching the crucial goal of preventing dangerous interference with the earth's climate system.

We understand that your administration is considering offering an amendment to the Montreal Protocol next week that would provide authority to regulate HFCs. We strongly support such an amendment. In addition, we encourage you to pursue international agreement for a 4 percent annual reduction in HFCs, achieving an 85 percent phase-down by 2030.

While HFCs currently are regulated within a "basket" of gases under the Kyoto Protocol, we believe that the Montreal Protocol may prove to be an appropriate alternative mechanism to HFC emissions. For the past 20 years, the Montreal Protocol has achieved a dramatic phase down of ozone-depleting substances (ODS). Given that HFCs are used as an ODS replacement and are created as by-products of ODS destruction, regulation of HFCs is a reasonable extension of the Montreal Protocol. The Protocol is well-equipped to prevent HFC emissions by regulating the production and consumption of these chemicals, while also supporting the advancement and diffusion of substitutes. In addition, the Multilateral Fund under the Protocol is an effective mechanism for financing technology transfer of substitute and alternative chemicals. Going forward, it is essential for the U.S. to provide adequate contributions to the Multilateral Fund, which helps support balanced, binding commitments by both developed and developing countries.

By providing the Montreal Protocol with the authority to regulate HFCs, regulation of these gases could begin as soon as next year—significantly faster than any regulation of these potent

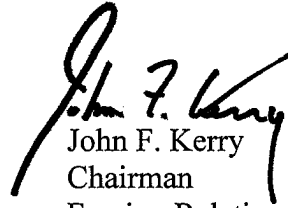
greenhouse gases could occur under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Although the Framework Convention is the appropriate forum to address emissions from a suite of greenhouse gases, we believe that a discrete class of chemicals such as HFCs can be more effectively and rapidly regulated under the Montreal Protocol.

We believe that the U.S. should seize this opportunity to achieve a significant, short-term impact on global emissions of greenhouse gases. We look forward to our continued collaboration to address the urgent challenge of global climate change.

Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer
Chairwoman
Environment and Public Works Committee



John F. Kerry
Chairman
Foreign Relations Committee

Cc: Secretary Hillary Clinton