political issues and to ensure in a cost-effec-
tive manner the environmental integrity of the Kyoto Protocol, making full use of opportuni-
ties, including ministerial meet-
ings. A successful outcome at COP 6 is
necessary to allow early entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol. For most countries this
means no later than 2002, with timely ratifi-
cation processes.

We recognise the importance of con-
tinuing consultations on issues such as sinks and the Kyoto Mechanisms and com-
plicity, to lay the basis for decisions at the resumed COP 6.

We agree that efficient, transparent and
clear rules on the Kyoto Mechanisms are
important to achieve the goals of the Kyoto Protocol and that a comprehensive
and strong compliance system, supported by a reliable system of monitoring, report-
ing and review will facilitate compliance and
discourage non-compliance.

7. Furthermore, we commit to take the
lead by strengthening and implementing
national programmes and actions, to re-
duce greenhouse gas emissions, as well
as to promote and disseminate environ-
mental technologies and practices and
renewable energy sources.

In addition, we look forward to concrete
recommendations from the G8 Renewables
Energy Task Force established by the
Heads of State and Government at the
Okinawa Summit as stated in paragraph 66 of the Okinawa Communiqué.

8. Achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention will require much greater
efforts in developed countries, and devel-
oping countries. We reaffirm our responsi-
bilities to lead in combating cli-
mate change. We also welcome those ac-
tions already being taken by developing
countries and we encourage them to
strengthen their efforts in this field.

We recognise the importance of capac-
ity building and technology transfer, as well
as the Clean Development Mechanism
(CDM), in order to assist and support de-
veloping countries in addressing climate
change.

9. We recognise the findings of the
IPCC that some countries may be particu-
larly vulnerable to adverse effects of cli-
mate change, namely Small Island Devel-
opping States (SIDS) and least developed
countries. We also acknowledge the need
to continue supporting adaptation meas-
ures by those countries.

10. We recognise the importance of capacity-
building and technology transfer, as well
as Joint Implementation, in order
in transition in addressing climate
change.

B. Strengthening domestic actions

11. All G8 countries have already be-
gun to commit themselves to take strong
domestic actions to tackle global climate
change. We note the benefit of showing
demonstrable progress in the years ahead.
G8 countries will submit transparent and
accountable information on domestic ac-
tions as required by the Climate Change
Convention.

We confirm that the use of the Kyoto
mechanisms will be supplemental to do-
mestic actions.

12. We recognise that a firm consen-
sus for action on climate change is needed
and that all sectors of society must be
called upon to play their part in implement-
ing change. Addressing social and employ-
ment issues is a matter of fundamental im-
portance to promoting consensus.

13. Using the opportunities and advan-
tages of the market and sending the right
signals to the market are important for ef-
fectively addressing climate change. G8
countries are introducing measures that
may include market mechanisms and will
promote the reduction of greenhouse gas
emissions. We applaud the many private
companies, civic groups, and individuals
that are working to reduce their emissions.

We congratulate, for example, businesses
that have adopted voluntary programmes,
including innovative market-oriented ap-
proaches. These efforts demonstrate that
the private sector, through the development
of new technologies and the adoption of
energy-efficient practices, can play a cen-
tral role in meeting the challenge of climate
change. We pledge to encourage and fa-
cilitate further voluntary actions by civil
society now and to exchange information
about how we can develop more effective
public-private partnerships.

USA

Thank you for your letter of March 6,
2001, asking for the Administration’s views
on global climate change, in particular the
Kyoto Protocol and efforts to regulate car-
bon dioxide under the Clean Air Act. My
Administration takes the issue of global
climate change very seriously.

As you know, I oppose the Kyoto Pro-
tocol because it exempts 80 per cent of
the world, including major population cen-
tres such as China and India, from compli-
ance, and would cause serious harm to the
US economy. The Senate’s vote, 95-0, shows
that there is a clear consensus that the
Kyoto Protocol is an unfair and ineffec-
tive means of addressing global climate
change concerns.

As you also know, I support a compre-
hensive and balanced national energy
policy that takes into account the impor-
tance of improving air quality. Consistent
with this balanced approach, I intend to
work with the Congress on a multipollutant
strategy to require power plants to reduce
emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen ox-
ides, and mercury. Any such strategy would
include phasing in reductions over a rea-
sonable period of time, providing regula-
tory certainty, and offering market-based
incentives to help industry meet the tar-
gs. I do not believe, however, that the
government should impose on power plants mandatory emissions reductions for
carbon dioxide, which is not a ‘pollutant’
under the Clean Air Act.

A recently released Department of
Energy Report, ‘Analysis of Strategies for
Reducing Multiple Emissions from Power
Plants’, concluded that including caps on
carbon dioxide emissions as part of a mul-
tiple emissions strategy would lead to an
even more dramatic shift from coal to natu-
ral gas for electric power generation and
significantly higher electricity prices com-
pared to scenarios in which only sulphur
dioxide and nitrogen oxides were reduced.

This is important new information that
warrants a re-evaluation, especially at a
time of rising energy prices and a serious
energy shortage. Coal generates more than
half of America’s electricity supply. At a
time when California has already experienced
electricity shortages, and other Western states
are worried about price and availability of
energy this summer, we must be very care-
ful not to take actions that could harm con-
sumers. This is espe-
cially true given the in-
complete state of sci-
cientific knowledge of the causes of, and sol-
utions to, global cli-
mate change and the lack of commercially
available technologies for removing and stor-
ing carbon dioxide.

Consistent with these concerns, we will
continue to fully examine global cli-
mate change issues – including the science,
technologies, market-based systems, and
innovative options for addressing concen-
trations of greenhouse gases in the atmos-
phere. I am very optimistic that, with the
proper focus and working with our friends
and allies, we will be able to develop tech-
nologies, market incentives, and other crea-
tive ways to address global climate change.

I look forward to working with you and
others to address global climate change
issues in the context of a national energy
policy that protects our environment, con-
sumers, and economy.

Sincerely,

GEORGE W. BUSH