



March 19, 2007

The Honorable John Dingell
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Boucher
2187 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Chairman Boucher:

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife and our over 500,000 members and supporters, I am writing to share our views on global warming's impacts on wildlife and how to address these challenges as you take up the important issue of global warming and begin to craft legislation in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

The impact of global warming on wildlife is one of the most important conservation issues we face today. Rising sea levels, melting ice, habitat shifts and droughts threaten the survival of species worldwide. Because the necessary ice bridges linking land and sea have disappeared, adult and young polar bears have starved and drowned. Some polar bears are resorting to cannibalism. Caribou are departing their wintering grounds a month earlier and are having trouble making it to the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge in time for spring, when the most nutritious forage is available for their calves. Islands used by the endangered Hawaiian monk seal could be completely underwater by century's end.

To address the impact of global warming on wildlife, Defenders of Wildlife strongly supports immediate reductions of greenhouse gas emissions in order to halt and reverse global warming. Even with such action, however, wildlife will continue to suffer from the impacts of global warming for the next 100 years, until greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere dissipate. Consequently, we must also act to help wildlife through this bottleneck over the next century

As outlined in the enclosures, Defenders of Wildlife recommends that a coordinated national strategy on global warming and wildlife be developed and implemented. In addition, building more robust scientific, inventory and monitoring programs is essential to managing wildlife and federal lands in a world changed by global warming. Also, we must act to reduce other stressors on wildlife, by, for example, protecting and linking habitat in which wildlife can migrate in response to global warming impacts. Finally, as Congress develops legislation to cap greenhouse gas emissions, it is likely to create a system of

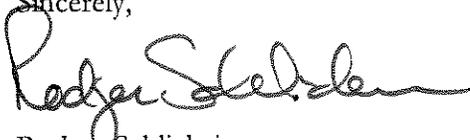
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emissions credits that can be traded. In the process, there is an opportunity to auction these credits to produce substantial revenue for the federal Treasury. A portion of that revenue should be dedicated to programs that offset the impacts of global warming on wildlife, so that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the wealth of wildlife and its habitat that we have enjoyed.

Enclosed is a copy of testimony our Executive Vice President Jamie Clark submitted to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works highlighting some of global warming's impacts on wildlife and ideas for addressing them, a report by Defenders on the impact of global warming on national wildlife refuges, the first three reports in a monthly series Defenders is publishing on the impact of global warming on Arctic wildlife, and a copy of *Defenders* magazine containing a special section on global warming and wildlife.

Defenders of Wildlife stands ready to work with this committee and the rest of the Congress to develop solutions that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enable wildlife to survive the next century until the benefits of emissions reductions can be fully realized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodger Schlickeisen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rodger Schlickeisen
President