

October 21, 2009

American Association for the
Advancement of Science

American Chemical Society

American Geophysical Union

American Institute of
Biological Sciences

American Meteorological
Society

American Society of
Agronomy

American Society of Plant
Biologists

American Statistical
Association

Association of Ecosystem
Research Centers

Botanical Society of America

Crop Science Society of
America

Ecological Society of America

Natural Science Collections
Alliance

Organization of Biological
Field Stations

Society for Industrial and
Applied Mathematics

Society of Systematic
Biologists

Soil Science Society of
America

University Corporation for
Atmospheric Research

Dear Senator:

As you consider climate change legislation, we, as leaders of scientific organizations, write to state the consensus scientific view.

Observations throughout the world make it clear that climate change is occurring, and rigorous scientific research demonstrates that the greenhouse gases emitted by human activities are the primary driver. These conclusions are based on multiple independent lines of evidence, and contrary assertions are inconsistent with an objective assessment of the vast body of peer-reviewed science. Moreover, there is strong evidence that ongoing climate change will have broad impacts on society, including the global economy and on the environment. For the United States, climate change impacts include sea level rise for coastal states, greater threats of extreme weather events, and increased risk of regional water scarcity, urban heat waves, western wildfires, and the disturbance of biological systems throughout the country. The severity of climate change impacts is expected to increase substantially in the coming decades.¹

If we are to avoid the most severe impacts of climate change, emissions of greenhouse gases must be dramatically reduced. In addition, adaptation will be necessary to address those impacts that are already unavoidable. Adaptation efforts include improved infrastructure design, more sustainable management of water and other natural resources, modified agricultural practices, and improved emergency responses to storms, floods, fires and heat waves.

We in the scientific community offer our assistance to inform your deliberations as you seek to address the impacts of climate change.

¹ The conclusions in this paragraph reflect the scientific consensus represented by, for example, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and U.S. Global Change Research Program. Many scientific societies have endorsed these findings in their own statements, including the [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#), [American Chemical Society](#), [American Geophysical Union](#), [American Meteorological Society](#), and [American Statistical Association](#).



Alan I. Leshner
Executive Director
American Association for the
Advancement of Science



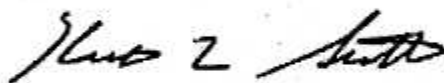
Thomas Lane
President
American Chemical Society



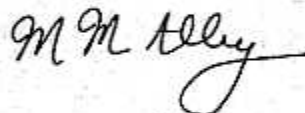
Timothy L. Grove
President
American Geophysical Union



May R. Berenbaum
President
American Institute of Biological
Sciences



Keith Seitter
Executive Director
American Meteorological Society



Mark Alley
President
American Society of Agronomy



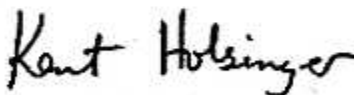
Tuan-hua David Ho
President
American Society of Plant Biologists



Sally C. Morton
President
American Statistical Association



Lucinda Johnson
President
Association of Ecosystem Research
Centers



Kent E. Holsinger
President
Botanical Society of America

Ken Quesenberry

Kenneth Quesenberry
President
Crop Science Society of America

Mary E Power

Mary Power
President
Ecological Society of America

W-y B

William Y. Brown
President
Natural Science Collections Alliance

Brian D. Kloeppel

Brian D. Kloeppel
President
Organization of Biological Field Stations

Douglas N. Arnold

Douglas N. Arnold
President
Society for Industrial and Applied
Mathematics

John Huelsenbeck

John Huelsenbeck
President
Society of Systematic Biologists

Paul M. Bertsch

Paul Bertsch
President
Soil Science Society of America

Richard A. Anthes

Richard A. Anthes
President
University Corporation for Atmospheric
Research