



NEWS RELEASE

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Sierra Club Offers Support to Massachusetts Attorney General in Bush Administration Suit to Stop Global Warming

Boston, MA—The Sierra Club today offered support to the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office in its lawsuit against the Federal Government for failure to protect the public from global warming pollution. Massachusetts announced the landmark lawsuit in conjunction with bipartisan administrations in Connecticut, and Maine. The three states are suing the Bush Administration to force it to begin tackling carbon dioxide (CO₂) because of the threat global warming poses to the health and safety of communities around the world.

"The 700,000 members of the Sierra Club applaud these states for stepping up to the plate and telling the Bush Administration that CO₂ pollution must be curbed and global warming must be stopped," said James McCaffrey, Director of the Massachusetts Sierra Club.

Global warming is already a reality around the world. Nine of the ten warmest years on record have occurred since 1990, and last year was the second-warmest year ever. The impacts of global warming will undoubtedly be felt in the Northeast.

The cause of this problem is air pollution, and the biggest culprit is carbon dioxide (CO₂). Levels of CO₂ in our atmosphere have increased 30 percent in the past 100 years. Some regions of the world have already warmed by as much as 5 degrees Fahrenheit. In the Northeast global warming may already be causing the spread of infectious diseases and increasing heat-wave deaths. Plants and animals around the world are shifting their ranges in an effort to escape a changing climate.

The good news is that there are real, common sense solutions to global warming. The technology exists to dramatically increase efficiency and reduce carbon dioxide pollution in our cars and power plants, factories and refineries. But it's up to our government to make sure these solutions are implemented. Admitting that carbon dioxide is a hazardous pollutant is an important first step.

"It's unfortunate that states must resort to suing the federal government in order to hold the Bush Administration accountable for their failure to act--particularly when technology makes increased efficiency and conservation so attainable," said McCaffrey.

The health and safety of our families and communities in State, across the country, and around the world are at stake. We applaud Massachusetts, Maine and Connecticut for taking stepping up to the plate and saying that CO₂ pollution must be curbed and global warming must be stopped, for our families, for our future.

The Sierra Club is a non-profit environmental organization with 26,000 members in Massachusetts and 700,000 members nationwide dedicated to the preservation, protection, and exploration of the earth's natural environment.

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