

Summer 2009

*"The impacts of climate change will fall disproportionately upon developing countries and the poor... within all countries." Dr RK Pachauri, Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)*

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro,

We want your help to confront a growing challenge to the people of Nicaragua. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that the area around Leon, Nicaragua will get hotter and drier and that they should expect more frequent and powerful storms. Barbara Stocking, head of Oxfam said: "The world's poorest are the hardest hit, but they have done the least to cause it." And Kofi Annan's think tank recently reported that it estimates that global warming presently causes 300,000 deaths a year.

The impacts of climate change can be catastrophic, and that we need to take action now. The community where NHLSCP works - Goyena - was displaced by Hurricane Mitch in 1998 and continues to depend on climate sensitive agriculture for their livelihoods. The negative impacts of climate change will hurt the very people so many in the New Haven region have worked to help over the last 25 years.

Specifically, we would like you to:

- 1.) Support climate legislation that results in quick, deep, and real cuts in greenhouse gas emissions*
- 2.) Oppose exceptions that allow pollution to continue for a decade, and*
- 3.) Oppose giving away pollution allowances to industry.*

President Obama has asked Congress to send him a bill this year to address global warming by making deep cuts in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) believes that the simplest and most transparent way to reach emission reduction goals is a "cap, tax, and rebate" system that would set an upper limit on allowable emissions, tax fossil fuels based on their carbon content, and return the revenue directly to consumers.

Rep. John Larson (CT) has introduced legislation to enact such a system. Please consider cosponsoring America's Energy Security Trust Fund Act of 2009 (H.R. 1377).

We believe that action to limit climate change will benefit us all – both in the US and Nicaragua, and it's essential for our future that we act now. Thank you much you attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,