

Dear _____

I'm becoming increasingly alarmed about global warming. The more I read, the more frightening I find the prospects for the world's future. I've made more and more changes in my personal contribution to the problem by installing solar-electric panels, bicycling to work and conserving resources every way I can, yet even if I were able to completely eradicate my own carbon footprint, that would be insignificant in the fight against climate change. Thus I've decided to write my elected officials urging policy change.

In Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble (available for free downloading at <http://www.earth-policy.org/Books/PB2/>), Lester R. Brown outlines the major problems facing the world and suggests solutions. He describes the speed with which the US converted to a wartime economy when entering World War II and points out that this type of rapid response is needed to address the problem of climate change.

I'm convinced that his idea of tax shifting would be extremely effective in saving the environment. Income taxes would be reduced as taxes on pollutants such as carbon emissions would be raised. Several western European countries, including Germany and Sweden, have already implemented this environmental tax reform process and have found that jobs have increased, pollution has decreased and the renewable energy sector has grown. The International Center for Technology Assessment has determined that the real price of gasoline should be about \$11 per gallon. Tax shifts such as this are endorsed by 2500 economists, including 8 Nobel prize winners. Polls indicate that at least 70% of voters support this type of tax reform, once they understand it.

This country's military spending is ridiculously high. Mr. Brown outlines a budget estimate for addressing global warming, eradicating poverty, increasing family planning, and reforestation. His estimate is \$161 billion per year, much lower than the world's military budget.

You are in an excellent position to push legislation addressing climate change, wildlife protection and reforestation. I strongly urge you to use your influence to institute tax shifting and any other measures that will fight global warming.

We have a choice. Our legacy may be that we knew we were destroying the earth, and we had the tools to stop it, yet apathy, denial and bureaucracy prevented us from making the necessary changes. I choose to work for the other option: doing everything we can to fight global warming and to move the world toward a sustainable future. Please help in any way you can.

Sincerely,