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For Immediate Release
August 28, 2002

Bush Administration Facing Storm of Global Warming Criticism

Major Climate Change Lawsuit Filed; Leaked White House Document Exposed

President Bush's decision to snub the Johannesburg Earth Summit to avoid criticism for its global warming policies and unilateral approach to global issues has led to a storm of criticism, both here at home and abroad.

In an unprecedented move, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace and the City of Boulder, Colorado filed a lawsuit yesterday in US District Court on behalf of their members and citizens who are victims of global warming. The suit has been filed against two U.S. government agencies – the Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im) and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC).

This legal action – the first of its kind – alleges that OPIC and Ex-Im illegally provided over \$32 billion in financing and insurance for oil fields, pipelines and coal-fired power plants over the past 10 years without assessing their contribution to global warming and their impact on the U.S. environment as required under key provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Efforts by the Bush administration to preempt any criticism for its global warming policies in Johannesburg were revealed today by a prominent UK newspaper, *The Guardian*. The paper has obtained a crib sheet prepared by the White House, which provides directions for spinning their message in order to avoid criticism for the administration's refusal to negotiate any significant agreements with concrete targets and timetables to address issues like climate change.

A sample question in the White House document states: "The world summit has a significant focus on the environment. Is the president avoiding the issues?" The administration's scripted response reads: "The president is committed to environmental stewardship both home and abroad." *The Guardian* interprets the response as meaning: "The US has not signed up to the Kyoto protocol limiting carbon emissions."

More information on the climate change lawsuit is available at: <http://www.climatelawsuit.org>.

The Guardian's article can be viewed at:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldsummit2002/story/0,12264,781590,00.html>

Visit www.foe.org/earthsummit for daily updates on the negotiations and more information on why there is a concern about Partnerships (Type 2 outcomes), the Bush administration's approach to the summit, President Bush's rejection of a corporate accountability framework, background information and more.

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