



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>

January 14, 2008

Gina McCarthy, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Commissioner McCarthy:

I would like to commend you, as Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Climate Registry, for your efforts to develop a States-based reporting system to track greenhouse gas emissions. Parallel to your efforts, as Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, I included in the omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 2008 \$3.5 million to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to create a federal greenhouse gas reporting program. EPA must complete a final rulemaking by June 2009 to require mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions in all sectors of the United States economy.

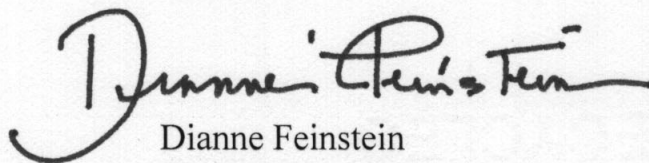
I understand that staff to The Climate Registry and some participating companies ("reporters") have questions about the relationship of the federal greenhouse gas reporting program to The Climate Registry and to other, mandatory State reporting programs. My intention is that EPA establish the federal program in order to build a rigorous set of economy-wide facility level greenhouse gas emissions data that could serve as the foundation for a future federal cap-and-trade program. The EPA Administrator must be able to ensure that the mandatory reporting protocols and standards are sufficiently rigorous for this purpose.

At the same time, I want to emphasize that the launch and continued work of The Climate Registry is crucial, particularly at this juncture. There is an immediate need for The Climate Registry to support state programs that are either planned or promulgated. By the time that the federal greenhouse gas reporting program is targeted to commence, The Climate Registry will have been operational for nearly two years and amassed a database of valuable, verified information.

Over the next eighteen months, I encourage you to work closely with EPA as it develops its program to ensure that there can be a smooth transition for reporters from The Climate Registry to a federal reporting program, where appropriate. Furthermore, I believe it is critical that a federal greenhouse gas reporting system is able to support both a federal cap-and-trade program and state greenhouse gas programs. Therefore, a federal program should draw from, build on and, to the extent appropriate, be compatible with The Climate Registry and state-level mandatory programs, and take account of and be no less rigorous than your established structures and protocols.

I would be pleased to assist your efforts in any way I can. Best wishes to you and The Climate Registry Board as you finalize your program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

cc: Diane Wittenberg, Executive Director