

**Statement from Congressman Ben Chandler to be read at the Frankfort Climate Action Forum
on November 3, 2007**

Although I was unable to attend this climate action forum today, I want to thank you all for the invitation and for allowing me to have a statement read at the forum.

You are all here because you care deeply about our environment and the damaging effects of global warming. As many of you know, protecting our environment is an issue that I hold near and dear to my heart. Since I have been in Congress, there is nothing I am more proud of than my environmental record, and I can assure you that I will continue to fight for policies that protect our precious resources and conserve our land.

Our actions now will determine the type of world in which our children, grandchildren and future generations live. We must no longer accept the status quo—unrestrained consumption, unlimited energy use and poorly designed development—with no consideration of the devastating effects these decisions have on our future.

Believe it or not, the earth does not contain an endless supply of resources, which is why we have a moral obligation to be good stewards of our environment. It is our duty to begin to reduce our over-consumption of energy and resources. I know this is a challenge, but you are all here today because you feel passionately about this cause and you are willing to accept this challenge and lead the way to change.

As a lawmaker, I have a serious obligation as well. In Congress, I have been working with my colleagues to address the troubling environmental problems that we face today—including global warming and greenhouse gasses, air pollution and mercury contamination in our water, the constant drain of our natural resources, the drilling in some of our most pristine wildlife refuges, and the removal of our mountaintops.

I am a cosponsor of *The Safe Climate Act*, which is the strongest global warming prevention bill that has ever been introduced in the House of Representatives. Because of my support of the Safe Climate Act and numerous other environmental initiatives, I had a 92% rating with the League of Conservation Voters last Congress—while the rest of the KY delegation had a combined score of 10%.

Last year, I strongly opposed the President's proposal to sell our National Forests, including 4,500 acres of our own Daniel Boone National Forest. This year, I have voiced my disappointment with the University of Kentucky's proposal to log portions of the Robinson Forest.

I have also consistently voted against opening up the Artic National Wildlife Refuge for drilling, and I traveled to Antarctica with the Congressional Science Committee to see first hand our melting glaciers.

I am doing all I can in Congress to support legislation that promotes conservation, but there is much that can be done on the local level as well. Part of the solution to climate change is new technologies and environmentally-friendly policies, and part of the solution is public awareness. This is where all of you can help the most—spreading the word and educating our communities about climate change and the many things we can do as individuals to help curb the dangerous trend of global warming.