



August 28, 2007

Jeff Ruch
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
2000 P Street, NW
Suite 240
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Ruch,

Thank you for writing. As you may know, I do not sign prepared pledges. However, I appreciate the opportunity to tell you exactly what I believe in my own words.

Of course I will support public servants who do their job and tell the truth. We've seen what's happened in the Bush Administration to people who have tried to talk honestly about politically inconvenient subjects. I will not tolerate censorship or retaliation in my administration for the simple act of telling the truth.

I am strongly committed to leading a government that respects science and fosters an environment in which scientists and researchers can conduct and disseminate their work free of political influence and manipulation. Anything less would be a betrayal of our most fundamental American values, and a threat to the progress that could lift up millions of people, protect our environment and grow economies around the world.

Let me be very clear: I believe scientists in government — or outside of government — should have the freedom to follow their method. And I will not tolerate anyone who stands in their way. Instead, I will respect the scientific method and the facts it produces, inviting dissent and debate and making policy judgments based on evidence. Policy should be science driven; science shouldn't be politics driven.

Thank you for PEER's work on these important issues. I look forward to working with PEER in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "John" and "Edwards" being capitalized and prominent.

John Edwards