Re: Global warming reduction proposal

Dear Governor Corzine,

We live in a world that advances each day due to new improvements in technology. As these developments enhance our living conditions we need to question if in fact they are only hurting our preservation of natural resources. We tend to dwell on how far we have progressed, but in actuality have we only gone backwards? Our world is bombarded with dilemmas on a daily basis that all affect the well being of organisms. Air pollution, water pollution, erosion and acid rain (to name only a few) are all environmental problems that need to be resolved. However, one of the most important issues of the century is that of global warming. Our physical surroundings (human, social, natural, soil, atmosphere, vegetation, wildlife, transportation, housing) will all be severely distressed if the problem is not addressed. Whether occurrences have transpired due to nature or caused by human influence, damage is happening. While global warming is a problem internationally, nationally and locally, if the world contributes with smaller, more localized efforts, possibly we could impede upon this crisis or if anything, attempt to reverse its effects.

A main mission is to tackle the issue of global warming in New Jersey. You have expressed by the year 2020 that cleaner energy usage should be used by more than 20%. Your administration must put forth an agenda aimed at the reduction of carbon dioxide from power plants being it is one of seven state Regional Greenhouse House Gas Initiative participants. Also, the state has indicated that cars sold in New Jersey by 2016 should emit no less than thirty percent less greenhouse gases. The ideas already proposed by the state and government are on the proper track for future needs. We must set our goal on meeting these deadlines and numbers for the future. The adoption of a proposal with various initiatives and policies will be a step forward in New Jersey’s goal for its own part in greenhouse gas reductions to combat global warming.

Problem

To date, one of the most serious challenges facing our state, our country, and our world is the aspect of global warming. On our own shores in the United States, the sea level has
been rising 2 – 3 millimeters each year along the Atlantic Coast. Worldwide tide gauges and various measurements have suggested that the sea level has risen on a global scale from 6 – 8 inches over the last century. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, some of the primary factors driving the rise are an expansion of ocean water caused by warmer temperatures and the vast melting of mountain glaciers and small ice caps. Other factors also include pumping ground water for human use, and the melting of polar ice sheets in response to the warming of our atmosphere that has occurred since the last ice age. (EPA, 2006) Along with the rise in the global and statewide ocean levels, there has also been a drastic atmospheric change. Since the Industrial Revolution, humans have added a significant amount of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere by burning fossil fuels, cutting down forests, and other manmade developments. Greenhouse gases have a drastic effect on the atmosphere due to the concentration ability to absorb and emit an enormous amount of heat creating a warming effect in the atmosphere. Concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in pre-industrial times was approximately 280 parts per million. This is compared to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administrations report of over 379 parts per million in 2005. We have seen a 35% increase because of human effects. At present concentrations, carbon dioxide is higher than any time in the last 420,000 years. Also, in the recent twentieth century, methane gas has increased 151% compared to the pre-industrial levels. Another gas in our environment that has increased 18% over the last 200 years and continues to rise drastically is that of nitrous oxide. (EPA, 2006)

For many individuals living in the tri-state area, especially in Northern New Jersey, could begin to feel the harsh effects of global warming. The summers have the potential to be compared to a Georgian or Floridian climate. Those interested in cross country skiing, snowmobiling, and other winter activities would have to migrate to a higher part of our nation in order to find good snow. In the expected water, whether it goes from extremes of being too much and too little too often will become a constant battle. This could be the future of The Garden State. This comes from the Union of Concerned Scientists, which have studied temperature, rainfall, drought, and flood changes in New Jersey. “The temperature changes are the most obvious effect of global warming and the easiest to relate to,” said Justin Sheffield, a Princeton University researcher who worked on the study. “But there are many other things that are impacted that also affect our daily lives.” Sheffield and a Princeton engineering professor by the name of Eric Wood have been looking at how increasing temperatures and heavier rainfall have been affecting the hydrology of the region. The data they analyzed has shown that the number of short term droughts in the region would double during the next century, which is sure to put more strain on New Jersey’s relatively low capacity reservoirs, Sheffield said. Spring time floods fed by higher rainfall totals and earlier snow melts would also increase the frequency, not only in coastal areas, but in towns located in flood basins and along rivers and streams, the researcher stated. “We are going to see more of the extremes of too much water and then not enough,” Wood said. The group of scientists stated that there must be a goal on reducing greenhouse gas emissions for future dates. To emphasize their case, the scientists used climate modeling studies and projections to show how much heat trapped emissions would likely increase. They foresee winters in the Northeast warming from 8 to 12 degrees and summers from 6 to 14 degrees by the end of the century.
Research

Scientists from around the world agree that the rate at which the Earth is warming is unprecedented, abnormal, and disrupting our climate. They also agree that the main cause of the problem is the burning of fossil fuels that power our homes, businesses, cars and trucks. These fossil fuels emit greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide, which accumulates in the atmospheres and creates a blanket that traps heat causing our planet to get hotter. (Mattola, 2006) Currently there are many different ideas and acts that ought to be put forth to help in the global warming battle for New Jersey. Due to its severity regarding our future, a global warming solution coalition, comprised of one-hundred-forty politicians, business owners, church leaders, activists and scientists, was established to investigate the issue at hand. It has been brought to our attention that the backing of the Global Warming Response Act, which would require emissions to fall below 1999 levels by the year 2020 and by the year 2050, should have over seventy percent of fewer pollutants than our current levels. Assemblywoman Linda Stender and Senator Barbara Buono have tried in aiding the top priority by launching a campaign at the state house in Trenton to have the Global Warming Response Act passed by the New Jersey legislature. This act, among other provisions, will put mandatory limits on all emissions out of New Jersey. “There is no silver bullet, but 52% of our emissions come from transportation and the next largest from electricity.” An environment researcher for New Jersey, Susan Leta-Liou, claims that there are eight legislators in the assembly and four in the Senate who already have declared monumental support for this bill. This would also require that The Department of Environmental Protection establish a program to reduce global warming emissions produced in New Jersey to be below 1990 levels by the year 2020.

Plan

Currently, there are only a few aspects of legislation regarding intricate discussions and promises on reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. On the specific bill in question, the Global Warming Response Act is only one step towards what must be put into effect as a law for the state of New Jersey. A specific plan which has been introduced at a governmental level should now be put into the states hands. The CCSP (Climate Change Science Program) could be one of the largest components to a climate assistance program. This is a multi-agency effort which is focused on improving our understanding and reaction to the science of climate change and its potential impacts. (EPA. 2006) This strategic plan called the CCSP, can go on to describe a strategy for developing the knowledge of variability and change in the climate and relate environmental and human systems. This will encourage the application of the knowledge gained from this plan. There are five principle goals that these guidelines will produce. It would be able to explore the uses and identify the limits of evolving knowledge to manage risks and opportunities relating to climate alterations and discrepancies. It can also improve the understanding of the Earth’s past and present climate conditions. This can help educate humans on the natural vulnerabilities of the Earth’s own heating source. Another goal is
to reduce the uncertainty of possible projections of how the Earth's climate and other systems will change in the future. The Global Warming Response Act, which requires emissions to fall below 1999 levels by 2020, should also look toward the year 2050 and have a goal of emitting 70% fewer pollutants than current levels. Seeing how power consumption is high on the agenda, the power consumption of New Jersey must be reduced. In our daily lives, in our homes, businesses and schools, a shift to a cleaner and renewable source of energy needs to be within our technological generation. The manufacturing of cars with better gas mileage should be necessary. With the average gas mileage at 20.8 miles per gallon, with the correct technology in place, a fuel economy standard of 33 miles per gallon can easily be obtained. (Mottola.2006) Along with this standardizing of mileage, consumers must also be made to do their part. There should be more buying of these energy efficient vehicles, carpooling, and the installation of energy efficient appliances and light bulbs in peoples homes to help conserve energy. The New Jersey Transit System has already taken it upon themselves to do their part. With the introduction of bio-diesel, the state's air quality and the reduction of the harmful effects regarding global warming will begin to be reduced. With the help of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, The Department of Public Utilities and The Department of Transportation, the (20% soybean bio-diesel/80% diesel) fuel will have a drastic impact on the 27 million gallons per year used of fossil fuels by the New Jersey Transit. (Skinner.2000) New Jersey, being among the seven state regional greenhouse gas initiative, it must focus more on the reduction of carbon dioxide from major power plants and corporations. This also states that the demand by the year 2016, the automobiles sold in New Jersey must emit 30% less greenhouse gases. Should these requirements and reductions not be followed by the corporations, monetary consequences and legal action will be enforced. (Young.2006)

As I have stated above, because of the ever growing threat to New Jersey of drastic climate changes, rising seas, and various environmental issues, the legislation and acts must be put into effect and enforced as soon as possible. There are many ideas which have already been expressed, and some that must be taken from a governmental level, that must be brought into the state to be implemented. There can be more that can be done, but a meeting to discuss various programs must be arranged. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact me at above address.

Sincerely,
WORKS CITED

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EPA? I see no evidence that you used these sources.