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**From:** ewald julie [SMTP:ewaldandjulie@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2000 12:48 AM  
**To:** jsct@aph.gov.au  
**Subject:** Kyoto Protocol

August, 2000  
24th  
Julie Schober  
99 Boomerang Rd  
Tamborine  
Qld 4270

The Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a student studying environmental science at Central Queensland University I implore you to ratify the Kyoto Protocol on climate change.

There would be a lot more economic and social problems in the future if we continue emissions at the current rate. "...there is good reason to argue that increases in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are related to an increase in the mean global temperature of Earth" (Botkin & Keller 1998, p.453). "If we continue emitting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere as we have in the past, it is estimated that by the year 2030 the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere will have doubled from pre-industrial revolution concentrations" (Botkin & Keller 1998, p.458). No amount of money in the bank is going to help the children of Australia, or the world, if the very life support systems that we rely on continue to be destroyed.

I also believe that the economic and social problems could be reduced if the government were willing to encourage the use of sustainable resources that have little or no emissions. Reasons for the use of renewable energy is that "Their utilisation does not deplete resources", it has lower environmental impact when compared to current technologies and the manufacture, supply and trade in technologies to support renewable energy has economic benefits. "Australia has considerable involvement in solar water heating and photovoltaic developments, resulting in significant export income and employment" (Coates et al. 1999, p. 5-32,33). Incentives to use non-polluting sustainable resources would also help encourage industry in a direction that would be safer for the future of Australia. The fear with a carbon tax is that industry may well just pay the tax and keep polluting and this will not solve the problem.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Schober

#### REFERENCES

Botkin, D.B. & Keller, E.A., 1998, Environmental Science: Earth as a Living Planet, John Wiley & Sons Inc., New York.

Coates, M., Keleher, P., & Klease, G., 1999, Environmental Science A Study Guide, Central Queensland University, Rockhampton