



**State of Delaware
Office of the Governor**

**Ruth Ann Minner
Governor**

February 13, 2007

Dr. David R. Legates
University of Delaware
212A Pearson Hall
Newark DE 19716

Dear Dr. Legates:

The purpose of this letter is to help clarify your role as State Climatologist. As you know, recent statements and actions related to the issue of climate change have focused attention on your position as State Climatologist and the associated roles and responsibilities that come with this designation.

First, let me thank you for your contributions to our State. Your counsel on weather events that could have serious impacts on citizens and infrastructure has been invaluable to our transportation and emergency planning and response teams. Likewise, your participation in the National Climate Data Center provides an important service for Delaware. I trust that your continued efforts in these areas will be beneficial to all concerned.

Let me now turn to the issue of immediate interest. Recent media coverage of events associated with the subject of climate change has generated some confusion about the role of the State Climatologist and whom the position represents. Your views on climate change, as I understand them, are not aligned with those of my administration.

I have long held the view that carbon emissions from human activity have been a contributor to the changes we are now seeing in the earth's climate, and that opinion was validated recently by a gathering of the Union of Concerned Scientists. Based on that view, I accepted Governor Pataki's invitation in 2003 to join with New York and other northeastern states to develop a program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in lieu of any initiative by the federal government. Six other Governors and I signed an agreement in 2005 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 10 percent by 2019 from our fossil-fuel power plants and we will be seeking legislation this session to implement this program. Three more states intend to join this program.

In light of my position and due to the confusion surrounding your role with the State, I am directing you to offer any future statements on this or other public policy matters only on behalf of yourself or the University of Delaware and not as State Climatologist. I believe that your responsibilities as State Climatologist do not include representing the views of Delaware's Executive Branch, and I understand that you have not provided your opinions as such.

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It is my sincere hope that you do not view this as an affront to your professional credibility but rather an attempt to assure that the public better understands the role of the State Climatologist and the distinction between the State Climate Office and Delaware's executive agencies.

Please feel free to contact David Small of DNREC at 739-9000 if you would like to discuss this personally.

Sincerely,



Ruth Ann Minner
Governor

Cc: Dr. Daniel Rich
Provost, University of Delaware

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