



**CONGRESSMAN VERN BUCHANAN**  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THIRTEENTH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

May 19, 2008

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing today to express my strong objections to your administration's plan to relax air quality standards at our national parks and wilderness areas.

I believe this would be a huge mistake. We have a responsibility to preserve and protect America's most pristine wilderness areas and historic national parks for future generations. What legacy would we be leaving our children and grandchildren if the sight of our greatest national treasures, such as the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Park, were obscured by smog?

In my home state of Florida, the Everglades National Park is a Class One federally protected area that would come under your administration's proposed relaxed air quality standard. The Everglades is a unique and valuable part of Florida's natural history, as well as a vital destination point for thousands of tourists every year. The Everglades ecosystem also contributes to South Florida's water supply and flood control. It would be a grave mistake to allow air pollution to ruin one of Florida's greatest natural resources and top tourist attractions.

I share your commitment to the expansion of America's energy independence, but I disagree that it should be achieved by weakening the Clean Air Act to build coal-fired plants next to our national parks and wilderness areas. This is a big country. Surely there are many locations to build these facilities that would not require relaxing air standards at the expense of our national parks.

Even your own EPA officials have objected to this new proposal, according to a recent article in the *Washington Post*. I hope you will reconsider and drop this ill-advised plan.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress