

September 14, 2009

Marco Gonzalez
Ozone Secretariat
United Nations Environment Programme
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi 00100 Kenya
submission via email: marco.gonzalez@unep.gov

Dear Marco:

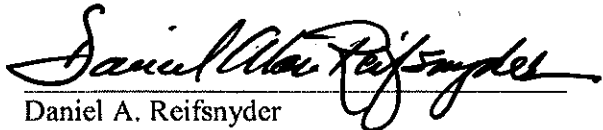
Growth in the production and consumption of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) has captured significant attention from the international community, including from the Parties to the Montreal Protocol. Although HFCs pose no problem for the stratospheric ozone layer, they pose a serious threat to the climate system because of their high global warming potentials. New demand for refrigeration and air conditioning world-wide coupled with the more-rapid transition to alternatives because of the success of the Montreal Protocol in accelerating the phaseout of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) suggest that substantial increases in global HFC use will take place over the next several decades unless action is taken.

An international freeze and phasedown of HFCs would help avoid creating a serious environmental problem, achieve important climate benefits, and send a signal to the market concerning the need to develop and commercialize new alternatives. To that end, we enclose a submission related to discussions held at the 29th Open Ended Working Group (OEWG). This submission builds on the HFC amendment proposal tabled by Mauritius and the Federated States of Micronesia. In particular, it provides an alternative methodology for establishing baselines and describes step-wise reductions for both developed and developing countries, among other changes. Also enclosed is a one-page summary of the submission.

We believe that global action on HFCs is warranted and that it can be taken under the Montreal Protocol. We also believe it possible to establish arrangements between the Montreal Protocol and the UNFCCC to manage HFCs responsibly and efficiently in the very near term.

We urge Parties to consider this proposal seriously and ask that the Secretariat post this letter and the attachments on its website so that it will be available to other Parties in the run up to the 21st Meeting of the Parties in Port Ghalib, Egypt, from November 4-8, 2009. If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

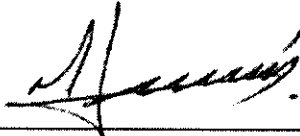
Very best wishes,



Daniel A. Reifsnyder
Deputy Assistant Secretary for
Environment and Sustainable Development
U.S. Department of State



David McGovern
Environnement Canada/Environment Canada
Sous-ministre adjoint/Assistant Deputy Minister
Affaires internationales/International Affairs



Mauricio Limón Aguirre
Subsecretario de Gestión para la Protección Ambiental/
Deputy Minister of Management for Environmental Protection/
Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources of Mexico/
Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de México,

Enclosures: As stated.