



July 15, 2002

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the more than five million members and supporters our organizations represent, we urge you to release the \$34 million appropriated for the United Nations Population Fund in Fiscal Year 2002. Human population growth is one of the most profound challenges to our environmental future.

In only 50 years, world population is expected to reach 9 billion. More than one billion teenagers are entering their reproductive years right now -- the largest cluster of teens in world history. The choices these young people make in the next decade will determine the fate of our natural world for generations to come.

By funding international family planning programs, the United States can make a significant impact -- not only in saving wildlife and biodiversity across the planet, but also in stemming the rise of poverty, hunger and political instability that comes with rapid population growth.

We need your help, Mr. President, to ensure that the U.S. meets its international commitment to help millions of impoverished families in the developing world who want basic family planning services but do not have access to or cannot afford them. Their health and education, which is enhanced by international family planning assistance, is directly linked to the health of our planet.

We thank you for your previous support for international family planning programs and for your budget request last year for the United Nations Population Fund. Our five million members and supporters recognize the link between ecosystem health and human health and we strongly urge you to release the \$34 million. We hope that you will follow through and make this long-term investment to protect clean water, clean air, wildlife and wild places for this and future generations.

Sincerely,

John Ficker  
President/CEO  
Audubon

Paul Hansen  
President  
Izaak Walton League of America

Mark Van Putten  
President/CEO  
National Wildlife Federation

Carl Pope  
Executive Director  
Sierra Club

Amy Coen  
President/CEO  
Population Action International