



For Immediate Release

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ITSSD: Britain Leads EU Charge to Undermine US Climate Change Policy

Prior ITSSD Studies' Findings Confirmed

*News Article Confirms that Europe, through Britain, Seeks to Influence
U.S. Climate Change Policy Through the Back-Door of State & Local Policymaking*

Princeton, NJ – July 17, 2006 - In a startling report revealing a tale of transatlantic espionage not witnessed since the glory days of 007, the London-based *Financial Times* today detailed how Britain, supposedly America's closest European ally, has been leading a multi-year European undercover effort within the United States to undermine U.S. climate change policy.

“It is not surprising that Europe is indirectly challenging the Bush administration policy on climate change, which the Europeans view as a major global-ailment”, notes ITSSD CEO, Lawrence Kogan. “They do not exactly see eye-to-eye on either the diagnosis or the cure. It is also not surprising that misguided American politicians are working alongside them.” Mr. Kogan is the author of several studies that document the European Union's nuanced efforts to export internationally and to the U.S. its high cost, non-science-based environmental regulations, and how their adoption here would likely compromise U.S. private property rights and U.S. global competitiveness.

According to the *Financial Times*,

“[F]or more than a year, British officials have conducted...grassroots diplomacy across the US, as London, frustrated by the Bush administration's skeptical attitude towards climate change, searches for allies on the issue outside Washington.

Britain hopes its work with states, cities and academic institutions in the US will help raise awareness of global warming and increase domestic pressure on the federal government to cooperate with international efforts to tackle the threat. All seven British consulate-generals in the US are engaged in the push, with [the] Atlanta office responsible for spreading the message in the south-east.

...Instead of confronting climate-change doubters head on, the British strategy has been to forge alliances with those that are sympathetic to its position. For example, the Atlanta office has worked closely with the South Alliance for Clean Energy, a North Carolina-based environmental group. Stephen Smith, executive director of the alliance, says his group joined forces with British officials to persuade southern mayors to sign up to the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement, a nationwide coalition committed to action on the issue. [In



addition]...British officials have been quietly engaging with a commission set up by the North Carolina General Assembly to consider how the state should respond to global warming..."

"What is most disturbing," Kogan says, "is that Britain, one of our closest and most trusted global allies, is leading this charge. The ITSSD is very concerned that the British government's underhanded tactics have crossed the line between engagement and interference, as they are genuinely intended to circumvent U.S. government policy through the 'back-door'. Due to the heightened international sensitivities concerning these issues, the British government's actions could be perceived by the American public as amounting to diplomatic subterfuge. For this reason, we truly worry how they will affect future bilateral relations."

Copies of the FT article can be found at:

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/33f1df06-1530-11db-b391-0000779e2340.html>

*The Institute for Trade, Standards and Sustainable Development (ITSSD) is a non-partisan non-profit international legal research organization that examines international law as it relates to trade, industry and **positive** sustainable development around the world. Copies of the ITSSD studies can be found at: <http://www.itssd.org/library.htm>*