

## DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

EPA concludes greenhouse gasses threaten environment, public health  
Global climate change already leading to major environmental impacts

### Summary:

- EPA concludes that greenhouse gases threaten the public health and welfare of the American people
- Excess greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change, leading to hotter, longer heat waves; melting glaciers and polar ice caps; ocean acidification and threatening wildlife
- Defenders of Wildlife hopes today's announcement will lead to quick U.S. action to address global climate change

WASHINGTON (December 7, 2009) – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) confirmed that emissions of key greenhouse gases threaten the health and welfare of the American public.

Below is a statement from Defenders of Wildlife Senior Vice President Robert Decher:

"Today's announcement by the EPA confirms what scientists have been telling us for many years: that unchecked greenhouse gas emissions are a major threat to human lives, as well as to our wildlife and environment. Global warming is already impacting all of us, threatening the water we drink, the air we breathe, the medicines we use, the food we eat, the forests and fisheries we depend on and the special places we take our children. The longer we wait to solve this challenge, the more expensive it will be to our society.

"The EPA's finding should lend extra weight to the negotiations that began today in Copenhagen over the steps the world must take to stem global climate change. The announcement should also help persuade the Senate to complete its work on a climate change bill, and urge the Congress to send President Obama a bill that will not only address greenhouse gas emissions, but also fund proactive steps to protect human communities, wildlife and natural resources before it is too late."

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Defenders of Wildlife is dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities. With more than 1 million members and activists, Defenders of Wildlife is a leading advocate for innovative solutions to safeguard our wildlife heritage for generations to come.

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