



August 9, 2007

Jeff Ruch  
Executive Director  
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility  
2000 P Street NW, Suite 240  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Ruch,

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate that you took the time to share your thoughts and concerns with me. I also value the work that Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility does and your commitment to ensuring responsible management of America's public resources. I am happy to discuss where I stand on the issues that you have presented: the openness of government, protecting the rights of whistleblowers, and employees who advocate protecting the environment.

I strongly support the Freedom of Information Act and other laws that let the American people monitor and participate in the business of government public. Americans should be able to access records of federal agencies that are funded with their tax dollars. And government officials should not be exempt from sharing information. They should not be permitted to consider themselves as a member of the Executive Branch or the Legislative Branch as it suits their purpose at that particular moment in time.

Many whistleblowers are heroes, standing up for the truth when others look the other way. Yet too often, whistleblowers face harsh consequences for speaking up. I support strong whistleblower protection laws in the government and corporate America. As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I heard Coleen Rowley's courageous testimony about the counterterrorism efforts of the F.B.I, before 9-11—testimony, that helped make all of us safer. Rowley relied on the Whistleblower Protection Act to protect herself from retribution. Any American, who speaks out as she did, deserves the same protection.

As president, I will strengthen protection for workers who report injuries or unsafe conditions, including an expedited process for hearing complaints of retaliation. I will also allow the Secretary of Labor to require companies to keep whistleblowers on their payroll while their case is heard. Workers deserve to know that they can speak up in the workplace without their job security being compromised.

We need to promote science, and do it honestly and openly. The Office of Science and Technology Policy will play a central role when I am president. It is unfortunate that the Bush administration hasn't shared that view. The censorship and suppression of

science on climate change, air pollution, and stem cell research—all to advance a political agenda—is wrong. Policy should be science driven; science shouldn't be politically driven.

Thank you for the work you do, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of "John" being a large, stylized capital "J".

John Edwards