



***A Letter to the National Association of Evangelicals on the Issue of Global Warming***

*We have appreciated the bold stance that the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) has taken on controversial issues like embracing a culture of life, protecting traditional marriage and family, promoting abstinence as AIDS prevention, and many others.*

*We respectfully request, however, that the NAE not adopt any official position on the issue of global climate change. Global warming is not a consensus issue, and our love for the Creator and respect for His creation does not require us to take a position.*

*We are evangelicals and we care about God's creation. However, we believe there should be room for Bible-believing evangelicals to disagree about the cause, severity and solutions to the global warming issue.*

*Further, we signatories who are members of the NAE believe that if the NAE wishes to take an official position on global warming or any other issue, it should do so through its formal process within the general council. Individual NAE members or staff should not give the impression that they are speaking on behalf of the entire membership, so as not to usurp the credibility and good reputation of the NAE.*

*Evangelicals are to be first and foremost messengers of the good news of the gospel to a lost and dying world. We are to promote those things that please God and oppose those things in the world that clearly violate His righteous standard of conduct. We respectfully ask that the NAE carefully consider all policy issues in which it might engage in the light of promoting unity among the Christian community and glory to God.*

*With love and respect,*

*(Affiliations are provided for identification purposes only. Signatories are representing their own views, and not necessarily those of their churches or organizations.)*

*Charles W. Colson, Founder and  
Chairman Prison Fellowship Ministries*

*Dr. James C. Dobson, Founder and  
Chairman Focus on the Family*

*Dr. John C. Hagee, Founder and Senior  
Pastor Cornerstone Church San Antonio,  
Texas*

*Rev. Dr. D. James Kennedy, Senior  
Minister Coral Ridge Presbyterian  
Church Ft. Lauderdale, Florida*

*Dr. Richard Land, President  
The Ethics and Religious Liberty  
Commission Southern Baptist Convention*

*Dr. Richard Roberts,  
President Oral Roberts  
University*

*Rev. Louis P. Sheldon,  
Chairman Traditional Values  
Coalition*

*Donald E. Wildmon, Founder and  
Chairman American Family Association*

*David Barton, Founder and  
President Wallbuilders*

*Joel Belz,  
Founder World  
Magazine*

*Dr. Richard B. Belzer  
Faith Evangelical Presbyterian Church*

*Dr. E. Calvin Beisner, Associate  
Professor Knox Theological Seminary*

*Rev. Jack Bradley  
Emmanuel Orthodox Presbyterian  
Church Colville, Washington*

*Dr. Kenneth Chilton  
Chapel of the Lake, Lake Saint Louis, MO*

*Thomas Chilton  
Associate Director of International  
Training Awana Clubs International*

*Charles W. Jarvis,  
Chairman USA Next*

*James Lafferty  
Christian Seniors Association*

*Dr. Tracy Miller  
Associate Professor of  
Economics Grove City College  
Dr. Joey Pipa, President  
Greenville Theological  
Seminary Dr. Timothy D.  
Terrell Associate Professor of  
Economics Wofford College*

*Rev. Ralph Weitz, Stewardship Pastor  
Immanuel Bible Church, Springfield,  
VA*

*Alan Wisdom  
Interim  
President  
Institute on Religion and Democracy*

## ***Response to ISA Appeal Signers by NAE President Rev. Ted Haggard***

***January 25, 2006***

*I recently received the Interfaith Stewardship Alliance petition concerning the NAE position regarding global warming. Thank you for your input and feedback. I was encouraged at the positive tone of that communication and I appreciate the sincere desire to navigate this issue in a life-giving manner. Allow me to confirm at the outset that the NAE is not circulating any official document on the environment. We are not considering a position on global warming. We are not advocating for specific legislation or government mandates.*

*In 2003, the NAE General Council unanimously approved the document, For the Health of a Nation: An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility. This landmark statement included a section concerning the environment. We stand by that document as the overarching principle that should guide our discussion. God created the earth and we are to steward that creation. Earlier this month the NAE Executive Committee re-affirmed our commitment to that principle and passed the following motion:*

*Recognizing the ongoing debate regarding the causes and origins of global warming, and understanding the lack of consensus among the evangelical community on this issue, the NAE Executive Committee, while affirming our love for the Creator and His creation, directs the NAE staff to stand by and not exceed in any fashion our approved and adopted statements concerning the environment contained within the Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility.*

*I have consistently articulated a clear position on this issue. The role of the NAE is not necessarily to arrive at definitive conclusions regarding creation-care and other non-consensus issues among evangelicals. However, simply because there is broad divergence does not negate the importance of the debate. To the contrary, issues, such as the environment, ought to be carefully evaluated and given due consideration. That is why the NAE applauds the work of groups such as the Interfaith Stewardship Alliance and the Evangelical Environmental Network. Albeit vastly different entities they are both striving to protect God's creation and arrive at a biblical worldview concerning these important issues.*

*The NAE does have a part to play; we will continue to heighten awareness on this subject and promote healthy and respectful dialogue between the different viewpoints. This is an issue that is not going away. For too long we've allowed a liberal faction with a humanism mindset to determine the national tenor of the discussion. It is time that bible-believing evangelicals, who believe that God created and we are to steward, be a voice at the table. The NAE looks forward to fostering an atmosphere where evangelicals can debate big ideas in a free and open forum and arrive at good conclusions. I believe there are proenvironment, pro-free market, pro-business answers to the environmental questions facing our global community.*

*Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding this ongoing matter. Thank you for all that you do to advance the Kingdom. I love serving alongside you.*

*Until all have heard,*

*Ted*

*Ted Haggard, President  
National Association of Evangelicals*