

Governor Schwarzenegger
United Nations Speech
September 24, 2007

**Mr. Secretary, Mr. President
distinguished delegates, ladies and
gentlemen . . . I have come to feel
great affection for the peoples of
the world because they have
always been so welcoming to me—
whether as a bodybuilder, a movie
star or a private citizen.**

**And you, their delegates, have also
made me feel very welcome this
morning.**

So thank you for this honor.

I have been asked to talk to you today about what is happening in California.

Ladies and gentlemen, something remarkable is beginning to stir— something revolutionary, something historic and transformative.

Let me give you some background. California already leads the nation in information technology.

We lead the nation in nanotechnology, in medical technology, in biotechnology.

We generate one of every four U.S. patents.

We attract almost half of all U.S. venture capital.

According to The Economist magazine, California is also home to three of the top six universities in the world.

In addition to all of this, California is the seventh largest economy in the world.

I do not mention these things simply to boast.

I mention them because when California does something, it has consequences.

And here is what we are doing.

**California is mobilizing—
technologically, financially and**

politically—to fight global climate change.

Now, we are not alone.

While California is leading in the U.S., we are building on the work of the European countries who have led the way up to now.

England has already met its Kyoto goals. Germany has pioneered solar. The EU has led with its trading system.

But California, because of its unique position, is on the cutting edge of what is to come.

And what is coming will benefit the countries and peoples represented in this chamber.

Last year in California, we enacted groundbreaking greenhouse gas emission standards.

We enacted the world's first low carbon fuel standard.

Do I believe California's standards will solve global warming? No.

What we're doing is changing the dynamic, preparing the way and encouraging the future.

The aerospace industry built the modern economy of Southern California.

The computer industry and the internet built the economy of Silicon Valley.

**And now green, clean technology—
along with biotech—will take
California to the next level.**

**Right now, in California, the
brightest scientists from around
the world and the smartest venture
capitalists are racing to find new
energy technologies . . . and the
solutions to global warming.**

**It's a race fueled by billions of
dollars.**

Last year alone, California received more than \$1.1 billion in clean tech investment.

This amount is expected to grow 20-30% a year for a decade.

More venture capital is being invested in clean tech than in telecommunications.

I have been in the labs and research parks.

**I have talked to the scientists and
venture capitalists.**

I have seen their ambition.

And I would not bet against it.

**So, what does all this mean for the
nations in this chamber?**

**The cell phone, which started as a
tool for the rich, is now widespread
in the developing world.**

The price has dropped dramatically.

The same thing will happen with environmental technologies.

And it is in the developed world's best interests to help the poor nations finance these advancements.

When it comes to the environment, the technologies are changing; the economics are changing; the urgency is changing.

My question today is this: are the nations of the world ready to change?

I believe California will do great things, amazing things. But we need the world to do great things, too.

The time has come to stop looking back at the Kyoto protocol.

It is time to stop looking back in blame or suspicion.

The consequences of global climate change are so pressing . . . it doesn't matter who was responsible for the past.

What matters is who is answerable for the future. And that means all of us.

The rich nations and the poor nations have different responsibilities, but one responsibility we all have is action.

The current stalemate between the developed and the developing worlds must be broken.

It is time we came together in a new international agreement that can be embraced by rich and poor nations alike.

California is moving the United States beyond debate and doubt to action.

I urge this body to push its members to action also.

Ladies and gentlemen, in closing, do not lose hope.

Do not believe that doom and gloom and disaster are the only outcomes.

Humanity is smart, and nature is amazingly regenerative.

I believe we can renew the climate of this planet.

And I pledge to you, the members of the United Nations, that we in California will work with all our heart to this end for which we all long.

Thank you very much.