

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2004

Dear Colleague:

As Members representing the House Oceans Caucus, the House Science Committee, and the House Resources Committee, we encourage you to attend a timely briefing on ocean and climate science. The Center for Health and the Global Environment, Harvard Medical School recently sent you an invitation to a briefing entitled:

Oceans, Climate Change and Human Health

Date: Thursday, January 29, 2004

Location: 2168 Rayburn HOB (Gold Room)

Time: 9-10:30 am

Humans are vulnerable to many health risks stemming from the marine environment primarily through the ingestion of contaminated seafood and direct contact with seawater and sea spray containing toxins. Various marine and atmospheric processes can affect the distribution and proliferation of disease-causing organisms. The invited speakers will introduce the relationships among the oceans, climate change and variability, and human health, focusing on the impacts on the marine food web and the implications for human health and nutrition. Understanding of these issues can foster development of programs and policies that will improve marine resource conservation, promote development of clean technologies, and improve human health and treatment of disease.

Moderator:

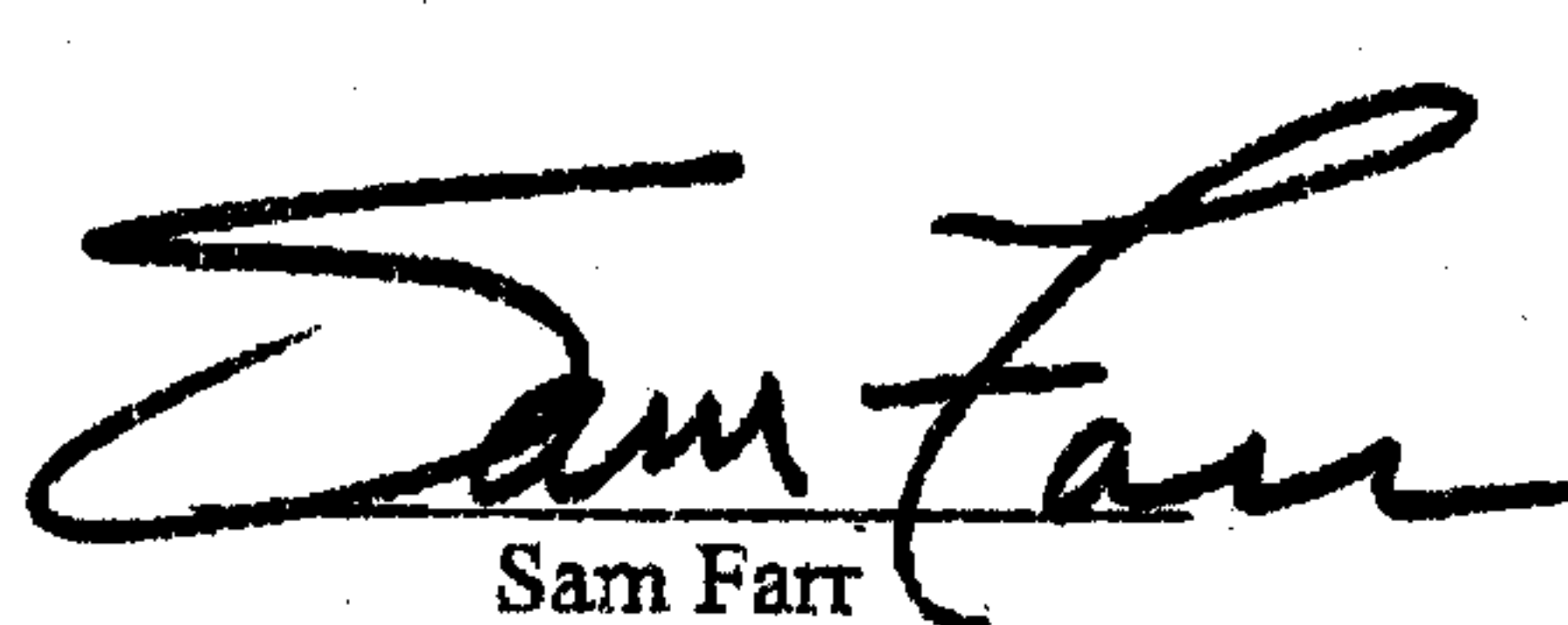
- Dr. Paul Epstein, Center for Health and the Global Environment, Harvard Medical School.

Panel:

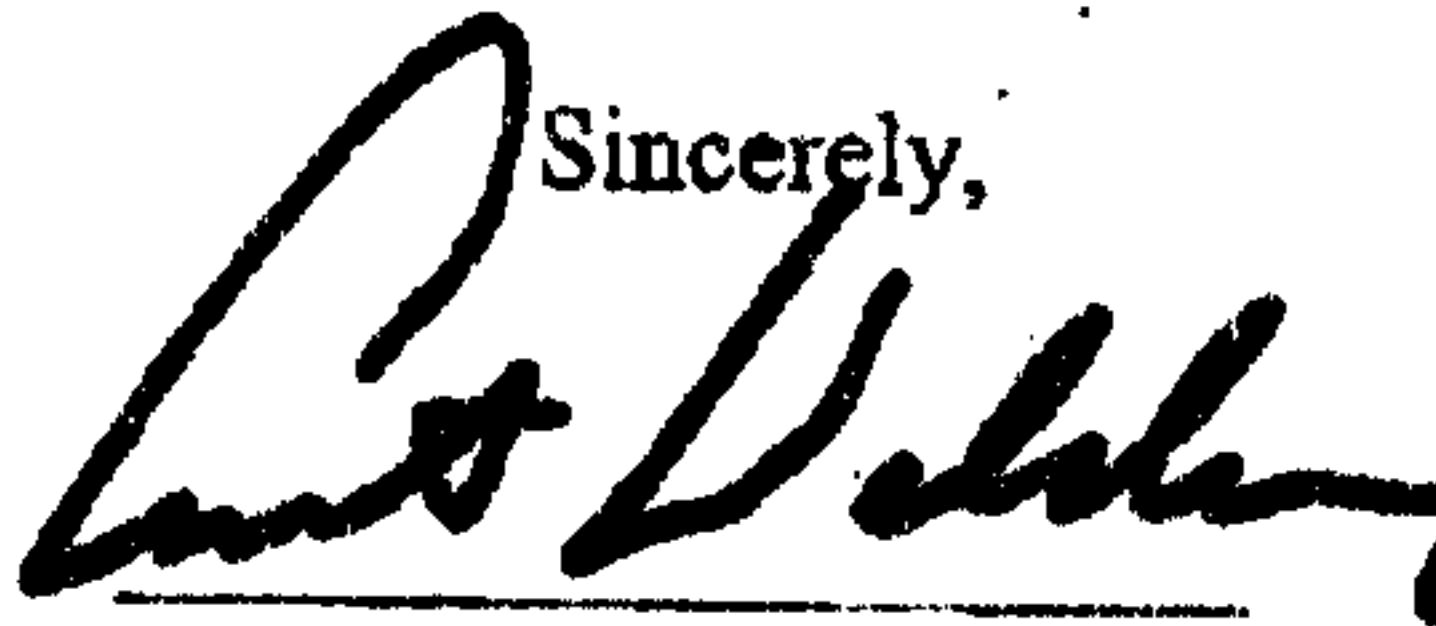
- Dr. Ruth Curry, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute; "Climate Change and the North Atlantic"
- Dr. Virginia Burkett, USGS National Wetlands Research Center; "Sea Level Rise and Storm Surges in Gulf States: Communities, Salinization, Wetlands and Fisheries"
- Dr. Philippe Grandjean, Danish Epidemiologist, Harvard School of Public Health; "Mercury Contamination in Fish, Focusing on Sources Related to Fossil Fuel Extraction and Combustion"
- Ms. Cosette Simon, Government Relations, Swiss Re; "The Cost of Climate Change – One View from the Financial Sector."

To RSVP, please contact Paul Epstein at paul_epstein@hms.harvard.edu.

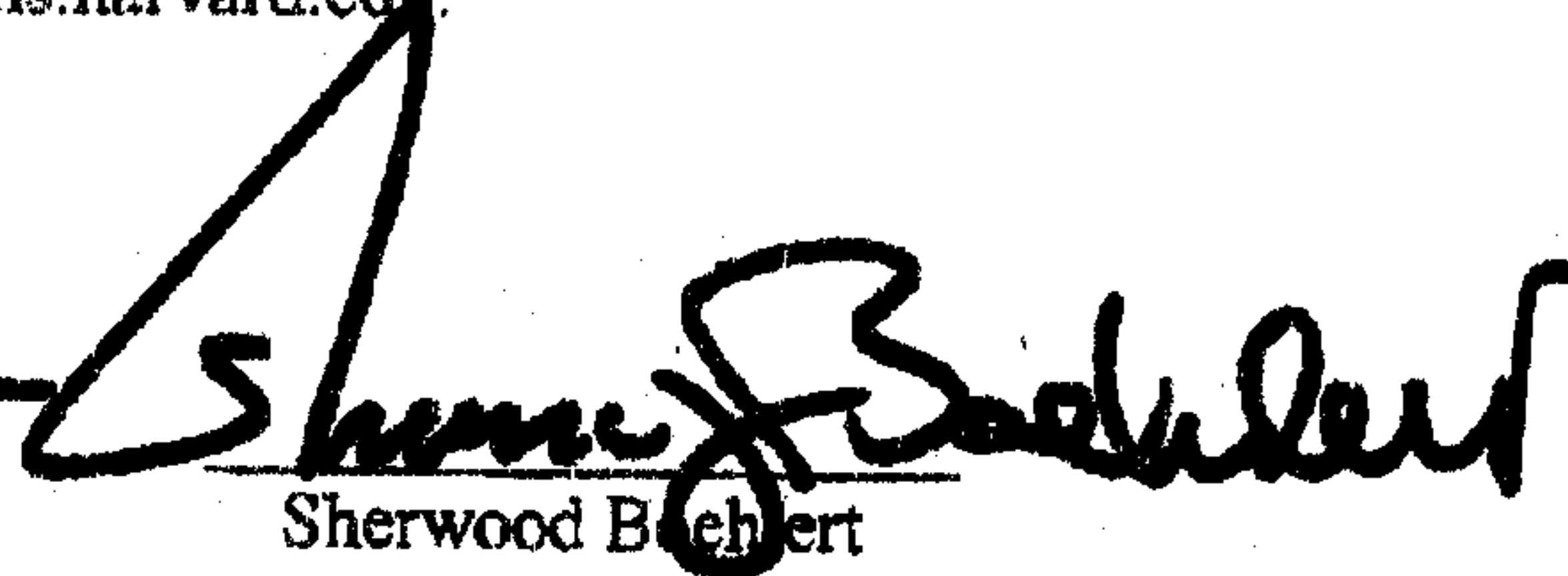
Sincerely,



Sam Farr
Co-chair, Oceans Caucus



Curt Weldon
Co-chair, Oceans Caucus



Sherwood Boehlert
Chair, Science Committee



Tom Allen
Co-chair, Oceans Caucus



James Greenwood
Co-chair, Oceans Caucus



Wayne Gilchrest
Chair, Subcommittee on Fisheries
Conservation, Wildlife and
Oceans, Resources Committee