

DAVID NADLE, STONEMAN DOUGLAS (FIRST PRO SPEECH)

Before I begin I would like to first start off by thanking the Schwann Company and the Lincoln Financial Group and furthermore the National Forensic League and all of its sponsors. I would also like to thank Ted Turner personally for creating this event and sponsoring it. Finally, I would like to congratulate our opponents for making it this far in debate. Also, my partner and I would like to thank Diane Ramirez and Bradley Hicks, our coaches, who supported us as well as our team. Finally, I would like to thank God—it's Friday.

While the Kyoto Protocol originally began as an environmental treaty, it has become so much more, changing not only countries' economic perspectives, but society's as a whole—precisely why my partner and I stand in affirmation of today's resolution—Resolved that the United States government should ratify the Kyoto Protocol. First, we must look to the United States' potential to improve its international relations.

The United States has truly damaged its international credibility by refusing to officially act upon global warming. By ratifying the Kyoto Protocol, it would be doing just that. According to Margaret Walsh from the European Union Commission on Environmental Affairs, the United States' position is worrying and the United States needs to be prepared for negative implications, both economically and politically. Sam Williams of *The New York Times* on April 6, 2006, states that foreign companies no longer do as much business with the United States companies because foreign companies are under Kyoto Protocol restrictions whereas United States companies are not. And this is directly seen with a 68 percent reduction in foreign investment in United States removal technology sector, most specifically from the European Union as I previously mentioned. Furthermore, the European Union has also stated that it has already begun and will continue to remove its half a billion person market from the United States because of its failure to comply with the Kyoto Protocol. If we were to sign the Kyoto Protocol, it would improve international relations and furthermore allow the United States to revive its foreign investment. Next, we must look to the successes of the Kyoto Protocol in the United States already. My partner and I believe that there are economic models showing both the benefits and the cost of the Kyoto Protocol if we were to implement it in the United States. However, the best way to understand how it would truly affect the United States is to see how it already has affected the United States. The International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, or

ICLEI, has stated that the United States Conference of Mayors, an organization of over 168 mayors from 37 different states, has already helped 17 major United States cities reduce their emissions below 1990 standards to the Kyoto Protocol ones, but furthermore saved 725 million dollars across the board because of cheaper energy costs. Patrick J. Michaels of the Cato Institute in September 2002 states that California,