

**LETTER FROM-MR. DREW  
LEWIS, U.S. SPECIAL  
ENVOY ON ACID RAIN TO  
PRESIDENT RONALD  
REAGAN, JANUARY 8, 1986**

Dear Mr. President:

I have had the honor and pleasure to serve as your Special Envoy on acid rain for the past nine months. That appointment gave me the opportunity to meet and work together with Canada's Special Envoy, William Davis. I found him to be a man of great knowledge and sound judgement. His efforts both as a partner and as a Canadian statesman have been extraordinary.

We discussed acid rain with scientists, politicians, business-people, and concerned citizens from both sides of the border and have attempted to do it with a fresh perspective. We reviewed the most current technical and scientific information concerning both the causes and effects of acid rain. After this intense exposure, we are still not technical experts, but I do believe we have a very clear sense of acid rain's broad environmental and political implications, especially as they affect the historical friendship of the United States and Canada.

Mr. President, there should be no doubt that acidic air emissions are being transported through the atmosphere and over the U.S./Canadian border. That transboundary air pollution is causing serious environmental concern in both countries because of the ecological, economic, and cultural value of the resource at risk. The people of Canada are especially concerned, because they believe their bountiful lakes are threatened by air pollution over which they have no control. In fact, the depth of Canadian concerns about acid rain, and the extent to which Canadians feel the United States is partially responsible for Canadian problems, are two of the most important things I learned during my tenure as Special Envoy.

At the same time, however, I learned there is significant uncertainty regarding the extent and nature of the current acid rain problem. We are unsure of the size and significance of the ecological and economic losses now being experienced. We don't know what possible future damage may result if emissions continue at the current rate. These uncertainties make it even more difficult to estimate with confidence how much any emissions reduction would help protect resources at risk in either country.