

## **Mayors urge Bush to rethink Kyoto opposition**

**VENICE, Italy (AP)** - Mayors of several world cities, led by the mayor of the sinking city of Venice, have written U.S. President George W. Bush to urge him to reverse his position and support the Kyoto treaty on global warming.

A letter co-signed by the mayors was released Tuesday in Italy ahead of climate change talks in Bonn, Germany and a Group of Eight summit starting Friday in Genoa, Italy at which the Kyoto treaty and global warming in general are on the agenda.

In the letter, the mayors promise to do their part to fight global warming locally, but say the support of the United States is crucial to reduce greenhouse gas emissions around the world.

"Our cities will be heavily affected, not only by the raising of the sea levels, but also by the probable intensification of extreme climactic conditions," the mayors wrote.

"We are convinced that the Kyoto Protocol should not be discarded but reviewed and improved by exploiting its globality and flexibility," they wrote.

"We urge you to reconsider your position."

Venice Mayor Paolo Costa drafted the letter, and his office said it had been co-signed by more than 30 mayors, including those from Dublin; Rio de Janeiro; Beirut; Dubrovnik, Croatia; Dakar, Senegal; Seattle, United States; Fukuoka, Japan; Dhaka, Bangladesh; and Rabat, Morocco.

Bush abandoned the Kyoto pact in March, saying it was flawed and would hurt the U.S. economy. The accord pledges rich countries to cut greenhouse gas emissions \_ notably carbon dioxide from cars, factories and power stations.