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Dear Friend,

It's a fact.

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Trends vital to our lives are changing forever — shaking the faith of government planners, causing worry at the United Nations, and sparking behind-the-headlines restructuring in agriculture, energy, and transportation.

But it is the sudden acceleration of those changes that is most taxing the ability of world leaders to comprehend the future — causing a void of adequate global policies to deal with trends that will affect each of us —

The dramatic drop in carryover grain stocks to just 51 days of consumption — the rise in greenhouse gases — falling water tables that are bringing cut-backs in irrigation — the addition of 80 million to the global population each year — and soaring seafood prices.

That is why I urge you to order Vital Signs 1997 today. Now in its sixth year, the charts and tables in this book have become the lens through which policymakers, activists, educators, and students can actually see the trends that are shaping our future — indeed, the world our children must live in.

Trends are changing so rapidly, often out of public view, that it is hard for individuals, let alone governments, to take advantage of promising new trends, like —

The steady rise in bicycle production — the growth of urban agriculture — the rapid expansion in wind generating capacity and solar cell shipments — the continued drop in CFC emissions —

over, please

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