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## **The City Mouse and the Country Mouse<sup>1,2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>This posting is a simultaneous submission for "Climate Change and You: Putting a Face on Global Warming," EcoRes Forum Online E-Conference #3, October 19-29, 2009. Further information available at [www.eco-res.org](http://www.eco-res.org).

<sup>2</sup>From *Aesop's Fables*, Illustrated by Heidi Holder, 1981, Viking Press, New York, NY.

The tale of the city mouse and the country mouse (the country mouse learns that a modest life with peace and quiet is better than a material one with danger and strife) is a useful metaphor because humankind is destroying the present biosphere as it worships perpetual economic growth. Before the recent, global economic meltdown, the "shop till you drop" slogan was widespread in affluent societies and the top one or less percent of impoverished societies. However, billions of people are starving or impoverished. How can the affluent part of humankind be so insensitive to the fate of other humans and other life forms with which it shares the planet? Worse yet, humankind is destroying the integrity of the biospheric life support system that made and makes the planet habitable for humans. Human activities can and are endangering humankind's security, but it seems, except for a small part of the population, blissfully unaware of its fate. Earth cannot afford the excessive loss of resources to produce more stuff for more people. The country mouse figured out the situation – perhaps humankind will as well.