

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
CHAIRMAN

JOHN D. DINGELL, MICHIGAN
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS
EDWARD J. MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS
RICK BOUCHER, VIRGINIA
FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
BART GORDON, TENNESSEE
BOBBY L. RUSH, ILLINOIS
ANNA G. ESHOO, CALIFORNIA
BART STUPAK, MICHIGAN
ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
GENE GREEN, TEXAS
DIANA DeGETTE, COLORADO
VICE CHAIRMAN
LOIS CAPPS, CALIFORNIA
MIKE DOYLE, PENNSYLVANIA
JANE HARMAN, CALIFORNIA
JAN SCHAKOWSKY, ILLINOIS
CHARLES A. GONZALEZ, TEXAS
JAY INSLEE, WASHINGTON
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN
MIKE ROSS, ARKANSAS
ANTHONY D. WEINER, NEW YORK
JIM MATHESON, UTAH
G.K. BUTTERFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLIE MELANCON, LOUISIANA
JOHN BARROW, GEORGIA
BARON P. HILL, INDIANA
DORIS O. MATSUI, CALIFORNIA
DONNA CHRISTENSEN, VIRGIN ISLANDS
KATHY CASTOR, FLORIDA
JOHN SARBANES, MARYLAND
CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
ZACHARY T. SPACE, OHIO
JERRY McNERNEY, CALIFORNIA
BETTY SUTTON, OHIO
BRUCE BRALEY, IOWA
PETER WELCH, VERMONT

JOE BARTON, TEXAS
RANKING MEMBER

RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS
FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
CLIFF STEARNS, FLORIDA
NATHAN DEAL, GEORGIA
ED WHITFIELD, KENTUCKY
JOHN SHIMKUS, ILLINOIS
JOHN B. SHADDEG, ARIZONA
ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI
STEVE BUYER, INDIANA
GEORGE RADANOVICH, CALIFORNIA
JOSEPH R. PITTS, PENNSYLVANIA
MARY BONO MACK, CALIFORNIA
GREG WALDEN, OREGON
LEE TERRY, NEBRASKA
MIKE ROGERS, MICHIGAN
SUE WILKINS MYRICK, NORTH CAROLINA
JOHN SULLIVAN, OKLAHOMA
TIM MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA
MICHAEL C. BURGESS, TEXAS
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE
PHIL GINGREY, GEORGIA
STEVE CALISE, LOUISIANA

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

MAJORITY (202) 225-2927
FACSIMILE (202) 225-2525
MINORITY (202) 225-3641

energycommerce.house.gov

Opening Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 April 22, 2009

This week we begin our consideration of comprehensive energy legislation, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009.

Since the beginning of last Congress, this Committee has been working hard on energy legislation. We have held 41 days of hearings. Since January, we have received testimony from 61 witnesses. This week alone, we will hear from 67 more.

I want to thank all members of the Committee — on both sides of the aisle — for their intensive involvement on energy reform. You have made a major commitment of your time and your staff's time, and this is crucially important to our success.

I also want to warn you that as hard as we have been working, the pace is going to accelerate over the next four weeks. There are many issues that we need to discuss and resolve between now and Memorial Day.

We will be working hard because the goals are so important. The energy legislation we are considering will create millions of jobs, revive our economy, and secure our energy independence. It will also protect our environment.

In February, President Obama spoke to Congress and the nation about the need for comprehensive energy reform. He called on Congress to pass legislation that would transform our economy, protect our security, and preserve our planet. Our job is to meet those goals.

We are fortunate today to have three cabinet-level officials testifying before our Committee for the first time: Energy Secretary Steven Chu, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. They will explain the President's objectives and how we can ensure our legislation meets them.

As Chairman Markey and I worked on the draft legislation, our blueprint was a plan proposed by the U.S. Climate Action Partnership, a coalition of industry CEOs and environmental organizations. We will hear today from six key leaders of USCAP: DuPont, ConocoPhillips, Duke Energy, Alcoa, NRG, and the Natural Resources Defense Council. They will tell us how well we did translating their blueprint into legislative language.

I want to thank them and all our witnesses for their participation in these hearings.

Some have said that true energy reform will undermine our economy. They argue that there is a fundamental conflict between economic growth and clean energy.

That is a false choice. Our economic future and clean energy are inextricably intertwined. The economy that will grow the fastest in this century will be the one that makes the greatest investments in new energy technologies.

Nearly 40 years ago, this Committee passed the original Clean Air Act. Since then, we have reduced dangerous air pollutants by 60% or more. During the same period, our population has grown by 50% and our economy by over 200%.

Twenty years ago, under the leadership of John Dingell, this Committee passed the 1990 Amendments to the Clean Air Act. Opponents of the legislation said that stopping acid rain would bankrupt the utility industry. In fact, we cut emissions in half at a fraction of the cost the naysayers predicted.

We have a similar opportunity — and responsibility — this year.

The legislation we will be considering today has four titles. The clean energy title will spur investment in the technologies of the future: clean renewable energy, electric vehicles, and the smart grid.

The energy efficiency title will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and save consumers billions of dollars by making our homes, our appliances, and our transportation system more energy efficient.

The global warming title will create a market-based system for reducing carbon emissions to safe levels.

And the final title will provide our industries, our workers, and American families with the support they need during the transition to a clean energy economy.

It is no longer a question whether we will act to reduce CO₂ emissions. The endangerment finding released by EPA last week answers that issue. The real question is whether we will do so in a way that strengthens our economy, creates new jobs, and ends our dangerous dependence on foreign oil.

These are achievable goals. But to reach them, Congress needs to act, and we on this Committee need to lead the way.

We can succeed, but we will need to work together to forge consensus and workable solutions. I look forward to working with all the members of the Committee as we embark on this process.