

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH 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
Minority (202) 225-3641

February 7, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

We are writing to you in regard to legislative proposals to establish a clean energy standard. We respectfully propose that we work together to craft bipartisan legislation to establish a clean energy standard (CES).

We recognize that we have strong differences of opinion on some energy and environmental issues. We know you had grave concerns about the American Clean Energy and Security Act that the House passed last Congress. And we have equally serious objections to your recent proposal to restrict EPA's ability to regulate dangerous carbon pollution.

In our view, however, we simply cannot afford to let two more years go by without addressing our nation's pressing energy problems. We urgently need legislation that will create jobs, enhance our energy security, and address the threat of climate change.

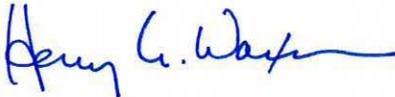
We know some of these issues are complex and controversial. But we believe we could work together to gain a common understanding of the facts and to reach sensible compromises based on what we learn. If properly constructed, a CES could provide regulatory certainty for utilities and a needed market signal that will encourage investment and boost innovation in clean energy sources. To draft a clean energy standard, we will have to work out many important details. For example, we will need to determine which resources count toward the standard, how to address resources that are cleaner than others but still have significant environmental impacts, how aggressive the standard should be, whether there will be multiple resource tiers, and how best to account for regional differences and provide compliance flexibility.

The Honorable Fred Upton
February 7, 2011
Page 2

Development of a clean energy standard is a concept that Republican members of the Committee have previously endorsed. During the May 2009 Energy and Commerce Committee markup of the American Clean Energy and Security Act, Rep. Barton offered a substitute amendment that included a detailed clean energy standard. You and sixteen of your Republican colleagues who currently serve on the Committee supported the amendment.¹

Our Committee has an impressive record of bipartisan accomplishments. In the last Congress alone, we worked together to develop legislation to secure our electric grid, reauthorize the Safe Drinking Water Act, and strengthen the safety standards governing oil and gas drilling. A clean energy standard has the potential to be another area of bipartisan cooperation.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member



Bobby L. Rush
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Power

cc: The Honorable Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power

¹ Republican members voting for a CES who remain on the Energy and Commerce Committee are Reps. Upton, Barton, Hall, Stearns, Whitfield, Shimkus, Pitts, Bono Mack, Terry, Rogers, Myrick, Sullivan, Murphy, Burgess, Blackburn, Gingrey, and Scalise.