

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
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Majority (202) 225-2927  
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April 30, 2012

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

The Honorable Ed Whitfield  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton and Chairman Whitfield:

Last week, the International Energy Agency (IEA) released a report finding that the transition to clean, low-carbon energy is not occurring quickly enough to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.<sup>1</sup> We request that you schedule a hearing on this report as soon as possible.

According to IEA, without a global effort to transition to a lower-carbon energy system, carbon emissions will double by 2050, causing global average temperatures to climb at least 6°C (10.8°F) and leading to irreversible impacts for the environment and human health.<sup>2</sup> Richard Jones, IEA's deputy executive director, said that it is "ambitious but still possible" to limit global average temperature increases to 2°C above pre-industrial levels but only if the world's leading economies prioritize the rapid development and deployment of cleaner energy technologies.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> International Energy Agency, *Tracking Clean Energy progress: Energy Technology Perspectives 2012 excerpt as IEA input to the Clean Energy Ministerial* (Apr. 2012) (online at [www.iea.org/papers/2012/Tracking\\_Clean\\_Energy\\_Progress.pdf](http://www.iea.org/papers/2012/Tracking_Clean_Energy_Progress.pdf)).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 15.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 13; *Clean Energy Lag Means World is Headed for 6-degree-celsius Temperature Rise, Says IEA*, E&E ClimateWire (Apr. 26, 2012).

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Although many countries have made significant strides in developing onshore wind resources and deploying solar PV technology, IEA found that the world is lagging in advancing less mature renewable energy technology, such as offshore wind and concentrated solar power. Moreover, the technologies with the greatest potential to reduce carbon emissions—such as carbon capture and storage, building and industry energy efficiency, and vehicle fuel economy—are making the slowest progress.<sup>4</sup>

IEA recommends that the world's leaders take immediate action to devote significant public sector resources to developing and deploying clean energy technology while creating a regulatory environment that encourages large-scale private sector investment. According to IEA, taking serious action on clean energy technology can help ensure energy security, rebuild national and regional economies, and address climate change and local pollution.<sup>5</sup>

We urge you to schedule a hearing on this matter.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Member



Bobby L. Rush  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power

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<sup>4</sup> *Supra* note 1 at 5-6.

<sup>5</sup> *Supra* note 1 at 5.