FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
CHAIRMAN

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH 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

September 26, 2013

The Honorable Robert B. Weisenmiller, Ph.D.
Chair
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-33
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Weisenmiller:

I am writing regarding the application AES has filed with the California Energy Commission to repower the Redondo Beach power plant, which would essentially replace the existing power plant with a new power plant. I urge you to reject this application and work with AES and the local community on a plan for site redevelopment.

The AES Redondo Beach Power Plant began operation in the 1950s and occupies a 52-acre site located across the street from the King Harbor Marina in Redondo Beach. It cannot continue operation as currently configured, because the State Water Resources Control Board has required coastal power plants to discontinue the use of cooling water intake structures that harm marine life.

I have long believed we should take this opportunity to permanently retire the power plant in Redondo Beach if it is feasible to do so. Local leaders and residents correctly recognize that there is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for redevelopment of this large property adjacent to the waterfront. Now there is new evidence from the City of Redondo Beach that indicates that power from the facility is no longer needed.

The AES Redondo Beach power plant is capable of generating over 1300 megawatts of electricity, enough electricity to power over a million homes. However, it has been operating at only a small fraction of its maximum capacity. For example, in both 2011 and 2012, the power plant operated at less than 5% of its maximum capacity. Now an independent analysis from Advanced Energy Solutions commissioned by the City of Redondo Beach demonstrates that the additional generating capacity available from the power plant, should it be repowered, would not be required for grid reliability in the foreseeable future.

Your work on this issue is critically important. It is imperative that we do all we can to cut air pollution in the region, and there is no question that burning fossil fuels causes significant pollution and health impacts.

I urge you to review the analysis by Advanced Energy Solutions. Unless you determine that the facility is absolutely essential and there are no feasible alternatives, you should reject the proposal to repower the plant.

I also urge you to join with me and local leaders in working with AES on an appropriate redevelopment strategy, one that maximizes the value of the site for the local community while recognizing AES's investment and treating the company equitably.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member