FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
CHAIRMAN

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
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Opening Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Full Committee Markup on Semi-Annual Committee Activity Report
June 23, 2011

Mr. Chairman, I will be brief. We have found the Committee activity report generally accurate in chronicling the meetings and hearings and markups. We have some technical corrections for accuracy, and we hope they can be accepted.

And we will have amendments to offer to ensure the Committee is protecting the health care of seniors, the disabled, and children.

The fact of the matter is that this Committee has accomplished virtually nothing since January. It is there on page 9 of the report:

> Total bills and resolutions referred to the Committee: 417
> Bills and resolutions reported to the House: 12
> Public Laws: 0

For all of its labors, this Committee has decisively failed to meet the most urgent need of the American people today: to pass into law legislation that will promote jobs and jobs growth for the country. Instead, the Committee's leadership has followed an extreme agenda across the Committee's jurisdiction that is completely divorced from creating jobs, investment, and growth.

On health care, this Committee has voted to strip benefits from seniors, the disabled, and children. It has passed legislation that repeals basic consumer protections and would allow insurance companies to discriminate against individuals with pre-existing illnesses. The Republican agenda has been to end Medicare and Medicaid as we know it.

It's a shameful record.

And on energy and the environment, our record is no better. This Committee room has become an alternative universe where the laws of nature cease to exist. It is an embarrassment that the Committee voted that climate change is not occurring, is not caused by man, and is not a threat to health and the environment.

I have offered to work with my Republican colleagues on a bipartisan basis on many bills, including the chemical security bill, the OCS bill, and the coal ash bill. But these overtures have been rejected again and again.

We can continue down the path we are on, or we try to find some common ground. We can end up with no major legislation emanating from this Committee enacted into law, or we can forge bipartisan consensus and achieve something for the American people.

There are areas where I hope we can find a bipartisan solution. One is toy safety; another is privacy; and a third is spectrum allocation and public safety. I hope we seize these opportunities.

So I believe this should be a moment for reflection and reassessment of the course we are on and of what we truly want to accomplish in this Congress. Our country needs leadership from Congress. Not divisiveness and partisanship.

Thank you.