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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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CHAIRMAN

June 18, 2007

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, Committee on Energy and Commerce

FROM: John D. Dingell, Chairman
Rick Boucher, Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality

SUBJECT: Consideration of Energy Legislation

We will circulate shortly a set of Committee prints addressing energy efficiency standards, a smart electricity grid, loan guarantees for innovative energy technologies, renewable fuels infrastructure incentives, and advanced battery and plug-in hybrid vehicle promotion. These will form the basis for markup of energy legislation in the Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality this week and in the full Committee next week.

Almost one month ago, we began circulating a series of staff discussion drafts of energy legislation that generated, as we had hoped, considerable debate. Based on two legislative hearings and other very useful responses we received to those drafts, we have decided to proceed with provisions that represent consensus. You will note that a number of the more controversial issues we raised, such as coal-to-liquids, fuel economy standards, a low carbon fuel standard, various mandates, and the role of Federal and State programs, are not included in the set of prints that we will distribute. These issues are important, and we are committed to addressing them and others when we take up comprehensive climate change legislation in the fall. This will also give us the needed time to achieve consensus on these issues if at all possible.

This procedure for considering energy legislation at this time was discussed with the Speaker, and she understands the rationale for proceeding this way so that we can rapidly complete work on a bipartisan bill that can be signed into law. As we see in Senate consideration of energy legislation, many of these issues are complex and difficult, and it is our desire to avoid unnecessary delays in passing legislation that can accomplish much good. For example, the energy efficiency provisions of the Committee prints, when fully enacted, will remove from the atmosphere carbon dioxide emissions equivalent to those emitted from all cars currently on the road, according to an analysis by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy and the Alliance to Save Energy. This does not even count any savings from the smart grid or other provisions included in the prints.

We look forward to working with you to report legislation within the next two weeks.