



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Boucher
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell and Chairman Boucher:

Addressing our nation's energy challenges is one of the most important goals we could achieve as members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Our country is burdened by its dependence on oil and our economy, national security, and environment are threatened by impending consequences of unchecked global climate change.

One guiding principle should be that any energy policy Congress enacts recognizes and addresses global warming. We must work to reduce our nation's emissions of greenhouse gases at the same time that we move toward greater energy independence. We need to shift from lagging behind the international community to leading the way.

This is why we are so disappointed by the discussion draft circulated last Friday. Although the Subcommittee has done commendable work at holding hearings and building a record for action, the discussion draft would lead the nation in the wrong direction.

This legislation, if enacted, would overturn the recent Supreme Court decision *Massachusetts v. EPA*. As you know, this landmark decision ruled that greenhouse gases are air pollutants and that EPA has the authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate emissions of greenhouse gases from motor vehicles to protect the public health and welfare. The discussion draft would rescind this authority.

Moreover, the discussion draft would block the efforts by 12 states to regulate and reduce global warming pollution from automobiles. While the federal government has failed to act in

The Honorable John D. Dingell
The Honorable Rick Boucher
June 7, 2007
Page 2

recent years, the states have moved forward. The last thing we should do is attempt to stop important progress being made by the states. The draft's preemption provision has no place in either this draft or any subsequent global warming legislation the Committee will consider.

The discussion draft fails to recognize the importance of reducing the nation's dependence on oil. Rather than immediately increasing the fuel efficiency of the nation's automobile fleet, the draft postpones the first tangible goal for efficiency improvement until 2022, and even then adopts comparatively weak fuel economy targets.

The draft also creates a dangerous risk of coal-based liquid fuels becoming a significant element of our nation's aviation fuel stream. In combination with the discussion draft released last month, this proposal would provide taxpayer subsidies to promote the use of these fuels, which have the potential to be vastly more polluting than traditional petroleum-based fuels.

We have serious concerns about the direction in which the Committee is currently heading and must strongly oppose the draft legislation that has been circulated. We urge you to rethink your approach and produce a bill that will help address the serious threat of global warming and reduce the nation's dependence on oil.

Specifically, we urge you to include the following policies in our Committee's bill:

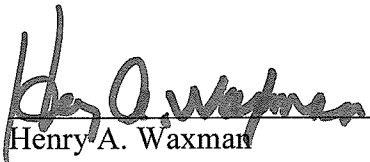
- Mandatory federal policies can significantly increase the efficiency of the transportation sector. Passenger cars and trucks are not nearly as efficient as current technology allows. Increasing the efficiency of these fleets will pay dividends for years to come by reducing both our dependence on oil and our greenhouse gas emissions. We can't wait 15 years to get started.
- Renewable sources of electricity should be an essential part of our energy future. Renewable electricity technology is ready for mass deployment, but without the proper federal requirements they could languish under-utilized. If we attempt to rely upon carbon controls alone to promote renewable energy, we are likely to face unintended consequences, such as overdependence on natural gas.
- One of the least expensive and most readily available sources of energy is the electricity that is currently wasted. While a discussion draft does include some energy efficiency measures, the Committee should establish national, aggressive efficiency targets to reinvigorate electric utility demand-side reduction programs and capitalize on this valuable resource.
- The recent discussion draft contains language to promote alternative fuels and provide assurances about the carbon content of these fuels. However, the Committee

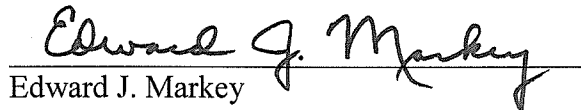
The Honorable John D. Dingell
The Honorable Rick Boucher
June 7, 2007
Page 3


should adopt policies to more comprehensively reduce our reliance on high carbon fuels and ensure that biofuels are sustainably produced. Plug-in hybrids and advanced cellulosic ethanol would not only achieve this purpose, but would also allow us to decrease our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

We urge you to abandon the harmful policies that have recently been proposed and carefully consider the policies we suggest above. The Committee has an opportunity to take a bold step to address global warming. We urge you to make it a step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

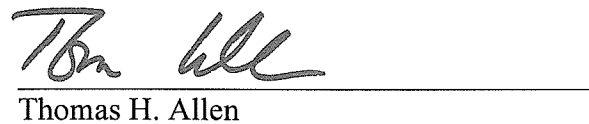

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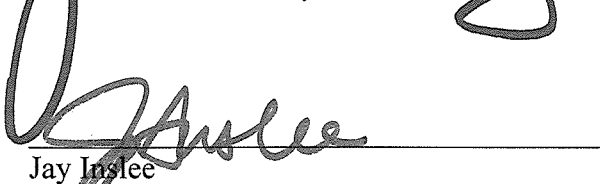

Eliot L. Engel

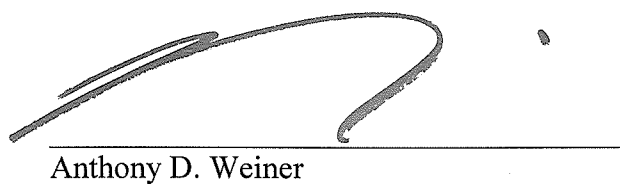

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