

**Earth Justice ▪ Friends Committee on National League ▪ Friends of the Earth
Greenpeace ▪ League of Conservation Voters ▪ National Audubon Society
National Environmental Trust ▪ Natural Resources Defense Council
The Wilderness Society ▪ Union of Concerned Scientists
U.S. Public Interest Research Group**

Dear Representative,

As the House Energy and Commerce Committee takes action on energy legislation, it has an opportunity to begin moving our country down the path towards a clean and secure energy future. We urge you to take this opportunity to craft a forward looking energy bill that takes meaningful steps toward solving global warming and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, including foreign oil. We urge you to work to pass a renewable electricity standard, increase fuel economy and to support the conservation provisions already in the bill so that we can take the first steps towards a new energy future.

It is essential that any energy legislation ensures reductions in carbon dioxide emissions and helps to avert the most dangerous consequences of global warming. Any legislation that makes this critical task more difficult is unacceptable. A sensible energy plan must include a strong renewable electricity standard, significantly improve vehicle fuel economy, promote efficiency and ensure that any biofuels mandate has adequate protections for our air, land, forests, water, wildlife habitat, and public health. Specifically, an energy bill must:

- **Include a Strong Renewable Electricity Standard:** The House should establish a strong national renewable electricity standard by adopting the Udall-Platts Renewable Electricity Standard (H.R. 969) that requires utilities to produce 20% of their electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020. This standard would boost the production of clean, renewable energy sources like wind, biomass, geothermal and solar power while creating jobs and saving consumers money. Already, 23 states across the country and the District of Columbia have adopted renewable electricity standards. This is a proven policy that should be included in any energy legislation. We urge you to reject any definition of “renewable” that would dilute the environmental and job creation benefits of the standard by including non-renewable energy sources.
- **Strengthen Fuel Economy:** The House should strengthen Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards by adopting the Markey-Platts Fuel Economy Reform Act (H.R. 1506) to ensure that we get at least 35 mpg fleetwide within ten years. In addition to saving consumers money at the pump, a 35 mpg standard would reduce dependence on oil and significantly cut the emissions of global warming pollution from cars and light trucks.
- **Maintain EPA and State Clean Air Act Authority:** We want to be very clear that we will vigorously oppose any bill that diminishes EPA’s authority to set global warming pollution standards for vehicles or fuels under the Clean Air Act or interferes with California’s authority to lead the nation by setting and implementing more stringent standards.
- **Reject Mandates or Incentives for Liquid Coal:** Producing transportation fuels from coal will make it more difficult to achieve the needed reductions in carbon dioxide emissions, as

well as cause additional environmental harms associated with coal production, transportation, and conversion. The addition of a mandate or incentives to produce liquid coal would represent a poison pill that would make any bill totally unacceptable.

- **Promote Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Industry:** The House should support the buildings, appliances, equipment, and industrial energy efficiency provisions in the House Energy and Commerce Committee prints. These provisions will not only save consumers and businesses money, but also reduce global warming pollution. The green building code provisions in subtitles B and C of the Energy Efficiency Title (Title I) set a target for both the residential and commercial national model building energy codes of 30% improvement by 2015 and 50% improvement by 2022 and could lead to especially significant efficiency improvements. The Committee prints also contain particularly beneficial reforms to Department of Energy (DOE) authority over energy efficiency standards for appliance and equipment products. These reforms, which are in Sections 104 and 109 of the Energy Efficiency Title, will motivate and enable DOE to get these efficiency standards done in a more timely fashion, ensuring energy savings for consumers, and to set standards more appropriate for the nation's diverse regions. Inserting statutory deadlines for these DOE rulemakings would help ensure timely progress in achieving these improvements and reforms.
- **Include Environmental and Public Health Safeguards for Biofuels Production:** Done right, biofuels have the potential to produce clean, renewable energy that will help secure energy independence and reduce global warming. However, any expansion of the renewable fuel standard must be an amendment to the existing biofuels program established under the Clean Air Act by the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Moreover, any policy requiring an increase in biofuels production, such as a renewable fuel standard, must be combined with necessary protections for our air, land, forests, water, wildlife habitat, and public health. Without these safeguards, a significant mandatory increase in biofuels production would carry grave risk to our environment, human health, and climate.

When considering your support for energy legislation, we ask you to remember that clean energy policies are those that reduce global warming pollution and protect land, water, air and public health. Oppose policies that take us in the opposite direction.

Sincerely,

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