

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 20, 2007

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

The Honorable Rick Boucher
Chairman,
House Subcommittee on Energy
and Air Quality
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Dingell and Ranking Member Boucher:

We write in response to your expressed interest in producing a bipartisan bill to address the threat of climate change. We have followed this issue with great interest and participated in the numerous hearings on climate change that you have scheduled so far this year.

We are convinced that continuing discussion of the science does not preclude the ability for Congress to take beneficial action on this policy. The public is increasingly aware of the changes taking place around them, and, clearly, our addressing a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in a thoughtful manner is a high priority for the American people. For the first time in history, there is real momentum in Congress to write comprehensive legislation addressing climate change.

As Republicans, we stand ready to work with you and your colleagues to address the issue responsibly. We believe we can successfully tackle climate change in ways that do not harm the economy, do not put us at a competitive disadvantage with regard to our foreign competitors, stimulate technological innovations and job development domestically, and also provide opportunities for rural America.

At this time, we are mindful of the multiple times you have committed yourselves publicly to moving a bill this fall and to do so in a bipartisan fashion. We stand ready to engage with you in conceptual or substantive discussions. We sincerely hope that you

Letter to Chairman Dingell and
Ranking Member Boucher
September 20, 2007
Page 2

take the steps to foster an atmosphere of bipartisanship. The recent debate on H.R. 3580, and its evolution from what was contained in H.R. 2900, the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, displayed well the benefits of working in such an open and bipartisan manner.


If for no other reason than the need to for all Members to protect the powers and deliberative role of the Subcommittee and Full Committee, we do hope that the process set forward in the coming weeks reflects the interest of all Members on the Energy and Commerce Committee of having a full and open debate.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we hope to hear from you as the process of drafting climate legislation gets underway.

Sincerely,



MARY BONO
Member of Congress



MIKE FERGUSON
Member of Congress