

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 12, 2007

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Members, Committee on Energy and Commerce

FROM: John D. Dingell, Chairman

SUBJECT: Committee Agenda

Now that we have completed the organization of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, I will be talking with all of you about issues the Committee will address in the 110th Congress and about the issues you would like to see us address. Indeed, we have had a number of those conversations already.

One issue that we must address stands out: climate change. It is critically important that Members of the Committee gain a full appreciation of the scientific and substantive implications of climate change policy so that we can develop and, if at all possible, enact a sound and effective public policy that is environmentally and economically responsible.

Our Committee brings a broad and deep range of expertise and experience to the climate change debate. More than any other committee of the Congress, we have an appreciation of the central factors and interests that must be considered on this matter. Our Committee is knowledgeable about the transportation sector, the electric utility industry, emission trading systems, the development and deployment of alternative fuels, renewable energy, energy conservation, nuclear power, international environmental agreements such as the Kyoto and Montreal protocols, environmental regulation broadly, and many other substantive concerns directly relevant to climate change policy.

Our Committee has proven that it can resolve complex and difficult environmental issues. We have enacted Superfund, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and many other landmark statutes. Our efforts led to the passage, by a vote of 401 to 25, of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Many of you are also aware of my personal commitment to environmental issues and my role in writing the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Migratory Birds Act, and many other environmental laws.

I recognize that there is a wide range of opinion on the issue of climate change, and it is my intention that we hear the full spectrum of views. I have asked, in the attached letter, that we hear from a former Member of this Committee, former Vice President Al Gore, on this issue and I can assure you that we will be also be asking to hear from experts who have very different views.

It is my intention that our deliberations and actions are conducted in a fair, thorough, and transparent manner, and I look forward to working with you to that end.

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The Honorable Albert Gore, Jr.
2100 West End Avenue
Suite 620
Nashville, TN 37203

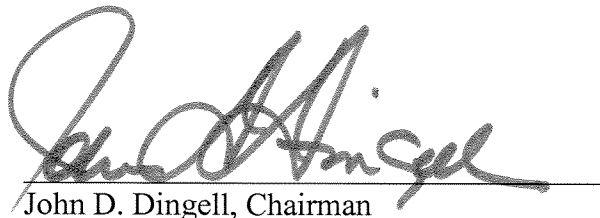
Dear Mr. Vice President:

One of the most important matters before the 110th Congress is the issue of climate change. Throughout your distinguished career in public office, and since your return to private life, you have been a leader on scientific, environmental, and energy policy matters. In particular, the publication of your book "An Inconvenient Truth," and your movie of the same name, and your personal efforts to raise the profile of this issue have helped to bring it to the attention of the American public.

We are writing to invite you to appear before the members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce as we launch an in depth examination of climate change that we hope will lead to the enactment of legislation in the 110th Congress. As a former member of the Committee, we know you appreciate its history of conducting thorough and unbiased examinations of the important questions within its jurisdiction. From the Clean Air Act, to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, to the Energy Policy Acts of 1992 and 2005, you have helped shape debate and develop solutions to a broad variety difficult policy issues.

At this point in the debate, there are broadly divergent views as to what should be done on climate change. We know you appreciate the need for thorough debate, and to that end the Committee will seek a broad variety of views including those of parties who do not agree with your position.

The task of identifying policy options on climate change is a substantial undertaking. We can think of no better way to begin the Committee's consideration of climate change policy than to hear from you. We will be in contact regarding your appearance. Please feel free to contact us, or have your staff contact Dennis Fitzgibbons, Chief of Staff of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, at (202) 225-2927.



John D. Dingell, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Sincerely,



Rick Boucher, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce