

November 17, 2008

Dear Representative :

We are aware that you are being asked to choose between two loyal members of your caucus to chair the House Energy and Commerce Committee in the 111th Congress.

We write to share our strong support for the chairman of the committee, John Dingell. Chairman Dingell is a strong advocate for environmental and conservation interests. That has been true throughout his tenure in Congress, but especially during his chairmanship. Through his efforts he has created a record to inform fellow members of Congress and the public on clean air and climate issues. His work during the 110th Congress has laid the groundwork for the House to pass substantive and well considered climate change legislation in the upcoming Congress. He should be empowered to lead the Committee's effort to now act on the legislation that will be informed by the work already undertaken.

Congressman Dingell is also a perennial champion of innovative ways to respond to environmental needs. An example is his leadership in that area was his role as the co-author and co-champion of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) which was supported by a vast coalition of America's leading environmental and conservation organizations and interests. He is also one of the leading members in the House working to restore anti-pollution provisions of the Clean Water Act that have been lost due to decisions in the judicial branch. Additionally, Chairman Dingell has long been a leader and champion in establishing and fostering new programs for the environment, including the Land & Water Conservation Fund and the North American Wetlands Conservation Act that conserve and enhance our nation's irreplaceable fish, wildlife, and natural resources, along with public lands.

We believe his record of working with diverse interests to unite them around proposals supported by broad segments of society will serve the Committee and your Caucus well. Americans have just this week demonstrated their interest in having the government be less gridlocked and more results oriented. Having an experienced consensus builder with a track record of getting legislation enacted leading this Committee makes sense.

We urge you to support the Chairman's continued leadership of the Energy and Commerce Committee and thank you for considering our thoughts.

American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Sportfishing Association
Archery Trade Association
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
Boone & Crockett Club
Bowhunting Preservation Alliance

Campfire Club of America
Catch-A-Dream Foundation
Dallas Safari Club
Delta Waterfowl Foundation
Ducks Unlimited
Federation of Fly Fishers
Houston Safari Club
Izaak Walton League of America
Mule Deer Foundation
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Trappers' Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
National Wildlife Refuge Association
North American Bear Foundation
North American Grouse Partnership
Orion: the Hunters' Institute
Pheasants Forever
Pope and Young Club
Quail Forever
Quail Unlimited
Quality Deer Management Association
Texas Wildlife Association
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
The Wildlife Society
Trust for Public Land
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute