



November 14, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of Trout Unlimited (TU), I am writing in support of Representative John Dingell retaining the chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee in the 111th Congress. I am also writing in support of Representative Henry Waxman continuing a strong leadership role in the new Congress.

TU's mission is to conserve, protect and restore the Nation's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. I can think of few members of Congress who have done as much to help us fulfill our organizational mission as has Chairman Dingell.

Chairman Dingell has been a pillar of leadership on fish and wildlife resource issues throughout his career. His work on the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act and wetlands protection, and most recently on including substantial fish and wildlife adaptation funding in climate change legislation, has been outstanding. His committee work on ensuring fish passage and fish conservation provisions in the Federal Power Act have enabled federal resource agencies, TU and others to develop some of the best fisheries restoration projects, such as the removal of Edwards Dam on the Kennebec River and the Penobscot River restoration projects in Maine. He should retain the committee gavel to allow him to take on the huge issues that the Committee faces next year.

Chairman Waxman has always been a stalwart and aggressive supporter of clean water, fish and wildlife, and we deeply appreciate his leadership. For example, through his chairmanship of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, he conducted an oversight hearing which helped to expose some of the serious flaws with the Interior Department's management of oil and gas development on our federal lands. We certainly hope that he retains a major leadership role in the caucus that will allow him to work with us to conserve fish and wildlife resources in such a vigorous manner.

Thanks for considering our views on this matter.

Steve Moyer
Vice President, Government Affairs