



ROBERT S. WALKER  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
1977-1997

March 13, 2008

The Honorable Steven Chu  
Secretary  
Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary,

On behalf of the members of your Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC), I am herewith submitting to you our annual report on the progress made globally during the past year toward making hydrogen and fuel cells a commercially viable part of a restructured energy economy.

We believe hydrogen and fuel cells offer the Obama Administration a significant pathway to meet its energy and environmental goals. Hydrogen competes successfully with all other technologies on economics, environment and energy security. The Administration has set ambitious goals for reducing dependence on foreign supplies of energy while at the same time addressing the issue of climate change. According to a 2008 National Research Council study (Transition to Alternative Transportation Technologies – A Focus on Hydrogen), hydrogen represents the only clear path to attaining those goals simultaneously by 2050. We are confident that the HTAC annual report demonstrates that commercialization has begun and significant progress has been made toward broad deployment (within five years) of this primary technology.

Our report makes clear that hydrogen and fuel cells hold great promise. If we are to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs in a much more environmentally sensitive economic climate, we must pursue technologies that utilize the broad base of available domestic energy resources including wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, nuclear, coal and natural gas. Our report demonstrates that activity in all these areas is underway and that hydrogen represents a strategy for unifying the variety of clean technologies into a diversified yet common infrastructure. No other energy solution has this unifying characteristic and no other energy solution can so substantially reduce the impact of greenhouse gases.

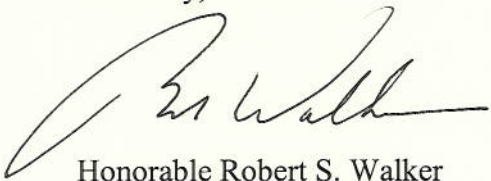
WEXLER & WALKER  
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Furthermore, our report makes clear that significant progress is being made by our international competition in both hydrogen utilization and fuel cell technology. We are convinced that there must be government and private sector investment in this arena if the United States is to create and maintain a leadership position. Failure to do so could result in the loss of leadership and lost opportunities for new domestic industries and jobs. Already in Europe and Asia there are private-public partnerships in place that will permit the rapid deployment of hydrogen and fuel cell technology. Our own activity can keep us competitive, but only if we continue to invest in the future.

Our report is intended to demonstrate that real progress is being made but should not be construed to mean that there are not continuing issues that must be addressed through research, development and demonstration and through financial risk mitigation with substantial federal intervention. The National Research Council study presented the nation with a roadmap for addressing these issues and we would urge the Department of Energy to use available resources in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and appropriated allocations to implement that roadmap.

We will appreciate your attention to our annual report and look forward to a productive dialog.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Walker", written in a cursive style.

Honorable Robert S. Walker  
Chairman  
Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technical Advisory Committee