

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,
CHAIRMAN

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY
BRUCE L. BRALEY, IOWA
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BETTY McCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND
PAUL W. HODES, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
JOHN P. SARBANES, MARYLAND
PETER WELCH, VERMONT

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
FACSIMILE (202) 225-4784
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

www.oversight.house.gov

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA,
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

DAN BURTON, INDIANA
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT
JOHN M. MCHUGH, NEW YORK
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
CHRIS CANNON, UTAH
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
KENNY MARCHANT, TEXAS
LYNN A. WESTMORELAND, GEORGIA
PATRICK T. MCHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA
BRIAN P. BILBRAY, CALIFORNIA
BILL SALI, IDAHO
JIM JORDAN, OHIO

October 11, 2007

Mr. Joseph T. Kelliher
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Mr. Kelliher:

It is now established that global climate change is happening and is the result of human activities. Climate change is an enormous challenge that will require significant increases in energy efficiency and reductions in emissions from transportation and electricity generation.

States have led the way in taking aggressive measures to combat climate change. Twenty-five states have adopted renewable electricity standards, which require increasing percentages of the electricity supplied to consumers to come from renewable sources. California and eleven other states have adopted standards requiring cars and light-duty trucks to limit greenhouse gas emissions but are awaiting EPA approval to enforce these standards.

Attention is now turning to the federal government, which is just beginning to act. Congress is currently considering an energy bill that would establish a federal renewable electricity standard, strengthen federal fuel efficiency standards for automobiles, and tighten energy efficiency standards. In the wake of the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Massachusetts vs. EPA*, EPA is preparing to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles for the first time.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) should play a vital role in addressing climate change. FERC has authority over many elements of the U.S. energy sector. From efforts to change the structure of our electricity markets to siting of electricity transmission lines and oil and natural gas pipelines to the approval of liquefied natural gas facilities and licensing of hydroelectric facilities, FERC is making decisions every day that will affect our nation's ability to halt and reverse global climate change.

Given the importance of FERC's role, I would like to better understand FERC's approach to climate change. I would appreciate answers to the following questions:

Joseph T. Kelliher
October 11, 2007
Page 2

1. What is FERC's climate change policy? How was this policy developed?
2. How does FERC factor potential global warming pollution into its permitting, licensing, siting, and approval decisions?
3. How is FERC assisting state governments with their efforts to promote renewable energy, enhance energy efficiency, and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases?
4. What steps is FERC taking to prepare for federal regulation of greenhouse gas emissions and federal renewable electricity standards?

Please provide this information about FERC's policies and efforts by October 22, 2007. If you have any questions about this request, your staff may contact Greg Dotson or Jeff Baran of the Committee staff at (202) 225-4407. I look forward to working with you to take the strong federal actions necessary to meet this enormous challenge.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

cc: Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member