

JOHN D. DINGELL
15TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

CO-CHAIR

HOUSE GREAT LAKES
TASK FORCE

MEMBER

MIGRATORY BIRD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2215
February 14, 2007

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Mr. Mark Maynard
PO Box 980301
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

Dear Mr. Maynard:

I want to offer my sincere apologies for the incorrect response that was sent to you on January 17, 2007. Our office receives thousands of letters and emails a week and in the particular week that you wrote to me regarding the gas tax, I had received hundreds of correspondences regarding the proposed troop surge in Iraq. Your letter was mistakenly batched with the hundreds of letters on Iraq and the incorrect response letter was sent to you. I sincerely apologize for this error. I hope that you continue to write me on matters of importance to you and I pledge to continue to do my best to respond in a timely and accurate manner.

On the issue that you wrote me, I agree with you that we need to reduce our gasoline consumption and encourage funding for alternative energy. I also share your belief that our tax code should be structured to encourage behavior that is beneficial to society, whether it be saving for college tuition, home-ownership, savings or investment. We must continue to increase our energy independence and efficiency and as the Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which has jurisdiction over these issues, you can rest assured that I intend to look into investing in clean and renewable energy, as well as the subject of climate change. I also intend to hold numerous hearings on the subject of climate change in the 110th Congress. I have attached the memo that I sent to members of the Committee, as well as my invitation to former Vice President Al Gore inviting him to testify, which he has accepted for March 21, 2007.

You may be pleased to know that Congress has taken a number of actions recently meant to encourage – financially – the development and usage of alternative energy. In the Energy Policy Act of 2005, Congress mandated that 7.5 billion gallons of ethanol would have to be incorporated as gasoline additives by 2012. Ethanol, a much cleaner alternative to gasoline, would significantly decrease greenhouse gas emissions. Hybrid cars also are being promoted to consumers via tax credits. Up to \$3200 is available in tax credits for a new owner of a hybrid. Also, Congress already offers many other smaller tax credits to conscientious consumers. For example:

- 30% of the cost, or up to \$2,000, for installing solar-powered hot-water systems, which may not be used for heating swimming pools and hot tubs.
- \$500 on the amount spent to upgrade thermostats and caulk leaks, using insulation materials used specifically to stop energy waste.
- \$200 for installation of new energy saving exterior windows.
- \$300 credit for purchases of a highly efficient central air conditioner, heat pump or water heater.
- \$150 for installation of a highly efficient furnace or boiler.
- \$50 for each advanced circulating fan.

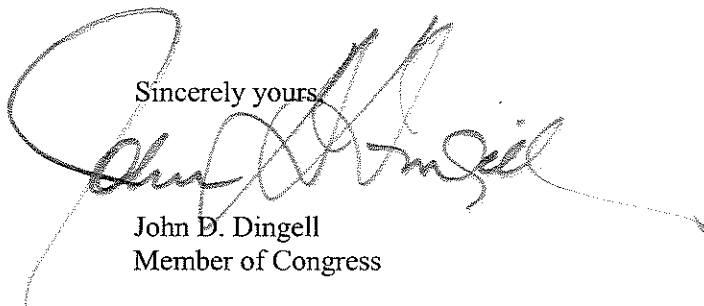
January 30, 2007

Since President Bush was elected and sworn into office, many of our major forms of energy have increased much faster than the inflation rate. The price of crude oil has increased by 143 percent since May 2001 (from \$28.63 per barrel to over \$70.00 per barrel). The price of heating oil has increased by 162 percent. The price of jet fuel has increased by 146 percent. The cost of propane is 105 percent higher than five years ago, while the cost of natural gas is 46 percent higher. The aggregate impact of these price increases is large. In 2001, the average family had gasoline, home heating, and electricity expenses of \$3,323. This year, these costs will rise to an estimated \$5,131; an increase of close to \$2,000. As the Chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, you can rest assured that I will continue to work to ensure that the best interest of the American consumer is served.

Again, thank you for being in touch. For news on current federal legislative issues, please visit my website at www.house.gov/dingell; you can also sign up there to receive my e-newsletter. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me again if I may be of assistance with this or any other matter of concern.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Dingell", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

John D. Dingell
Member of Congress

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.

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

January 12, 2007

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

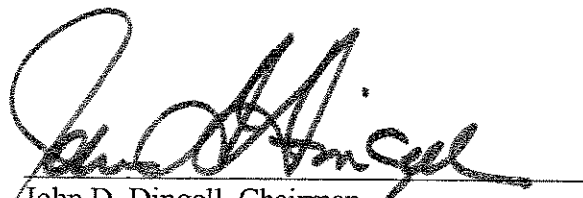
Dear Mr. Vice President:

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.

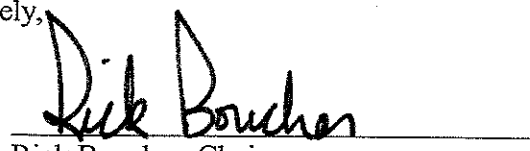
At this point in the debate, there are broadly divergent views as to what should be done on climate change. We know you appreciate the need for thorough debate, and to that end the Committee will seek a broad variety of views including those of parties who do not agree with your position.

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