

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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February 13, 2019

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Paul Tonko
Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment
and Climate Change
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Chairman Tonko:

We write to follow-up with you on the February 6, 2019 hearing before the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change concerning the impacts on climate change. As we made clear during the hearing, there is broad bipartisan agreement that prudent steps should be taken to address current and future climate risks.

What will be crucial going forward is rigorous examination of the costs, effectiveness, and economic impacts of any such policy steps proposed to address these risks. And we hope you will be open to scrutiny of these policies. Last week, some leaders of the Democratic party introduced the so-called Green New Deal, which calls for a 10-year plan to move U.S. power generation to 100 percent zero-emission energy sources. However, the Green New Deal minimizes the realities of current American and global energy systems. It ignores fundamental societal needs for affordable, reliable energy. In fact, the plan dismisses clean energy technologies essential for any future energy system, and ignores practical climate solutions that we should be working together to promote. But even though this proposal is billed as a solution to climate change, it also includes numerous unrelated, prohibitively expensive policy goals such as government-run health care, guaranteed income, and guaranteed employment. We have serious concerns about the potential adverse economic and employment impacts of these types of measures.

It will be important to recognize the ingredients for this nation's continuing success in global technological leadership when addressing future risks in energy, climate, and national security. For this reason, we urge you to avoid entertaining or resurrecting policies that have

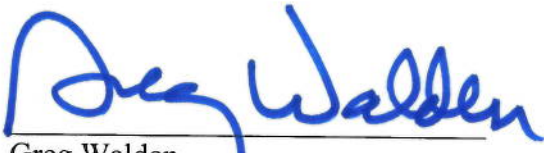
been shown to be costly and harmful to consumer and worker interests and focus instead on the bipartisan policies that lay a path of progress towards cleaner energy while ensuring the expansion of economic prosperity and opportunities for American workers. This path focuses on reducing unnecessary regulations and increasing access to abundant, affordable, and secure supply of energy that powers prosperity—the powerful combination of which gives Americans the freedom to innovate and design new technologies and services to make our lives better.

Regulatory certainty and affordable energy inform how we should think about future energy systems. This is why we conducted 11 hearings over the past two years to develop information through our Powering America hearing series, which will help develop policies for a more reliable, clean, responsive—and secure—21st electricity delivery system. It is why, in the 115th Congress, the Energy and Commerce Committee worked to enact laws that will enable rapid licensing of hydropower, create more seamless delivery and export of clean burning natural gas, increase private sector use of carbon capture technologies, and streamline regulatory structures that will help enable advanced nuclear energy.

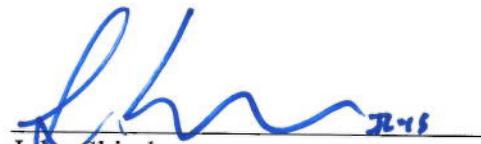
We were pleased that at the hearing, many members on both sides of the aisle expressed interest in working together to find common sense, bipartisan solutions. We are ready to begin that process. Although we cannot support schemes that risk constraining the supply of new technologies, increase burdensome government, and raise the price of energy that will send jobs overseas and depress economic opportunity, we do support policies that will further the tremendous wealth, security, and environmental benefits created through American energy innovation over the past decade.

We want America's innovators to develop the next technologies that will improve the environment and create jobs here at home. We want a healthy environment for our children, and future generations. We want our constituents and all Americans to have jobs and the opportunity to provide for their families. These are not mutually exclusive principles, and they are embedded in our approach to confronting climate risks. Let us work on them together.

Sincerely,



Greg Walden
Republican Leader



John Shimkus
Republican Leader
Subcommittee on Environment
and Climate Change