

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

October 1, 2019

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

Dear Frank,

Committee Republicans were encouraged by your July climate agenda announcement, because you specifically said you want to develop policies through a “collaborative process.” As you explained at the time, this will include hearings and stakeholder meetings “to ensure every affected community, industry and stakeholder” has a seat at the table. This was a welcome signal and – we all thought – a smart approach to addressing a very complex issue. As Chairman, you have the ability to pass bills on your own, but your willingness to work with our side of the aisle would ensure commonsense and bipartisan solutions to address climate risks can become law.

We do have questions about your announced plan to “achieve a 100 percent clean economy by 2050.” While this goal matches a lot of the rhetoric of the Green New Deal and Democratic presidential debates, we would need more details to understand the path ahead on your proposal and likewise, to help inform stakeholder participation. For example, what do you mean by “clean economy” and how do you envision that to be possible in the timeframe outlined given the technological, physical, and economic realities of America’s modern economy? We want to work with you, but serious policymaking requires more than a tag line. We need greater details about what you really want to accomplish. Maybe we will find the answers in upcoming hearings, but we would certainly appreciate a clearer explanation of your goals and how you propose to meet them?

We know we can work together, as we did last Congress, to protect our economy and our environment. But we’re frustrated by recent developments that stand in stark contrast with the “collaborative process” you promised. We have learned you emailed stakeholders over the August recess seeking information for the Committee about potential solutions to meet your

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policy agenda. That is normal. What is not normal, is that we were not included on the email information request, which was sent by Democratic staff and set up so only Democratic staff would have direct access to the submissions. This does not fit the spirit of collaboration, nor regular Committee practice, if you want to implement truly bi-partisan policy.

We sincerely hope this was a simple oversight, but now we are compelled to ask that you share with us fully the recipients of your requests and commit to sharing promptly any and all information you collect.

We remain eager to work with you on thoughtful policy development at this Committee to address climate risks.

Sincerely,



Greg Walden
Republican Leader