



ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE

finding the ways that work

June 15, 2007

Congressman John D. Dingell
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Rick Boucher
Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy
and Air Quality
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Dingell and Boucher:

Thank you for inviting Environmental Defense's perspectives on proposals you mention for Congress to enact a "portfolio standard" bill. Environmental Defense's President Fred Krupp asked me to respond to your letter on his behalf.

As you know, Environmental Defense's highest priority is advocating a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to safe levels. The best scientific evidence suggests we must cut emissions by as much as 80 percent below today's levels by mid-century if we are to have a chance of avoiding the most catastrophic potential consequences of global warming. That is why the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), a group of companies and environmental organizations of which Environmental Defense is a part, has recommended that Congress pass comprehensive cap and trade legislation to achieve emissions reductions of this scale.

Environmental Defense also believes that a strong portfolio standard to require electric utilities to generate a minimum percentage of their total electricity from renewable resources such as wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal energy would provide a number of very real benefits, including promoting energy diversity and reducing emissions of harmful pollutants.

Thank you again for soliciting our views. Environmental Defense looks forward to working with you and your staff to develop and pass legislation to reduce global warming emissions in the most effective way possible.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Thompson
Legislative Director