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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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July 5, 2007

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Mr. Daniel P. Mulhollan
Director
Congressional Research Service
101 Independence Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20540

Dear Mr. Mulhollan:

The Committee on Energy and Commerce and its Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations request that the Congressional Research Service (CRS) assist in our oversight of policy issues regarding the public safety of liquefied natural gas (LNG) tankers and terminal facilities. The Committee is aware that Dr. Paul W. Parfomak, a Specialist in the Resources, Science, and Industry Division of CRS, has particular expertise in this subject area.

In response to a recent Government Accountability Office report entitled *Public Safety Consequences of a Terrorist Attack on a Tanker Carrying Liquefied Natural Gas Need Clarification* (GAO-07-316), the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy is funding a large pool fire test to look at heat consequences from a large LNG fire on water. The DOE also plans to examine the question of cascading failures of shipboard LNG storage tanks in the event of a major fire or act of malice against an LNG tanker. Both of these assessments are being carried out by Sandia National Laboratories.

At this time, a peer review panel is being configured to guide these two Sandia studies. The Committee seeks CRS assistance in observing the peer review process and the work being done by Sandia to ensure taxpayer dollars are being wisely expended. The Committee is interested in ensuring the integrity of the peer review process, understanding issues that may arise in planning or conducting tests, and developing models from the results of these tests. To facilitate our oversight of these specific issues, the Committee would like Dr. Parfomak to serve as an impartial observer on the peer review panel.

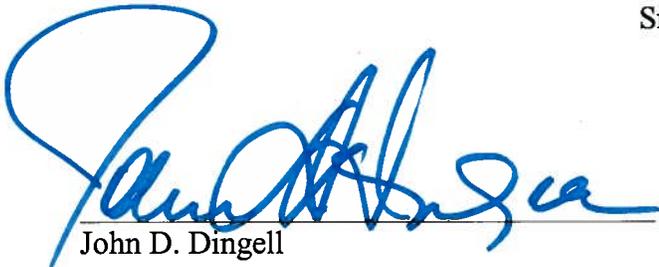
The Committee has discussed with DOE our desire to have CRS provide an observer to the peer review panel, and for Sandia to support travel for CRS, as may be necessary. The

Mr. Daniel P. Mulhollan
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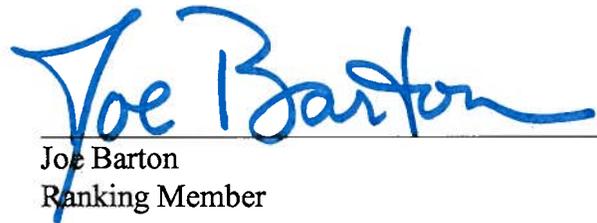
Committee understands that, while Dr. Parfomak's communications with the Committee will be confidential, he will be free to share his observations related to these LNG safety studies with other Congressional requestors.

If you have any questions, please contact us or have your staff contact Richard Miller with the Committee Majority staff at (202) 226-2424, or Dwight Cates with the Minority Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

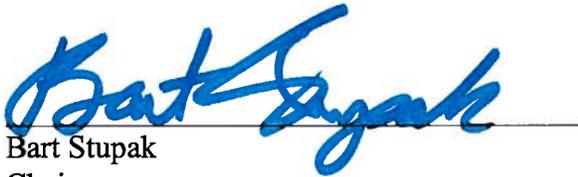
Sincerely,



John D. Dingell
Chairman



Joe Barton
Ranking Member



Bart Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations



Ed Whitfield
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations