FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
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RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH 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 24, 2013

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

We write to follow up on recent requests for information regarding the administration's climate change related activities, including actions identified in the President's Climate Action Plan released on June 25, 2013. In light of the President's announcement, Energy and Power Subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield wrote you on August 6 and September 5 to request that you or your designee testify at a September 18 subcommittee hearing and that your testimony include information regarding your agency's climate change related activities. You declined to testify and have not provided the committee any information concerning your agency's relevant activities.

Therefore, pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, we write to request that you provide the committee answers to our outstanding questions. Your agency is one of more than 18 federal agencies currently listed by the Office of Management and Budget as engaged in climate change related activities, and that collectively receive billions of dollars annually in funding for climate change activities. The Congressional Research Service has reported that for FY 2008-2012 alone your agency received funding for climate change programs in the amount of $1.418 billion.

To assist the committee's oversight regarding your agency's climate change related activities, we ask that you provide written responses to the following requests by November 22, 2013:

(1) Describe the climate change related research and technology programs or activities engaged in by your agency, including programs or activities undertaken with other federal agencies.

(2) Describe the climate change adaptation, mitigation, or sustainability related activities engaged in by your agency, including activities undertaken with other federal agencies.

(3) Identify all climate change related interagency task forces, advisory committees, working groups, and initiatives in which your agency currently participates or has participated since January 2005.

(4) Identify all climate change or clean energy related funding, grants or financial assistance programs in which your agency currently participates or has participated, and the amounts of climate change or clean energy related funding, grants, or financial assistance distributed by your agency, if any, since January 2005.

(5) Identify all climate change related regulations or guidance documents, including regulations or standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, issued, or proposed by your agency since January 2005, and/or under development by your agency.

(6) Identify all climate change related international negotiations, agreements, partnerships, working groups, or initiatives in which your agency currently or has previously participated, and the role of your agency in those activities, since January 2005.

(7) Provide the approximate amount of annual agency funds attributed to climate change activities for each of the years 2005 through 2012.

(8) Describe the actions your agency has undertaken to respond to Executive Order 13514 including the approximate costs, personnel, and other resources dedicated by your agency to implementing this executive order.

(9) Provide a list of each sub-agency, division and/or program office within your agency that is currently engaged in climate change related activities, and provide an estimate of the approximate number of your agency employees and/or contractors currently engaged part-time or full-time in climate change related activities.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Neumayr or Peter Spencer of the committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,

Fred Upton
Chairman

Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power

Joe Barton
Chairman Emeritus

Marsha Blackburn
Vice Chairman

Steve Scalise
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Bobby L. Rush, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Power