



November 14, 2008

The Honorable John Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell:

On behalf of American Rivers, I write in support of your retaining the chairmanship of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the Committee that you have led for over 25 years. American Rivers' mission is to fight for clean, free flowing rivers for the benefit of people, wildlife and nature. Based on the long and very close relationship that American Rivers has had with you on rivers issues, we support you as Chairman of the Committee.

American Rivers' relationship with you spans decades and you have been a true leader and passionate advocate for rivers and clean water. Your original sponsorship and co-authorship of many of our landmark environmental laws such as the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act demonstrate an unparalleled record on the protection and preservation of rivers and clean water. As Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, you have shown tremendous fortitude in establishing and maintaining fish and wildlife protections affected by hydropower dams under the Federal Power Act. Those efforts have resulted in the restoration of literally thousands of river miles throughout the nation.

Your colleague, Chairman Waxman is a great champion of citizen's rights and has always stood up to special interests like the oil and gas industry. He has also been a stalwart and aggressive supporter of clean water. Most importantly, like you, he has been a leader in the charge to confront one of the most important challenges of our lifetime, global climate change.

The focus of American Rivers' efforts is to protect healthy rivers that provide resilience to every human and natural community so they can thrive in the face of global warming. Rivers and water will be hit 'first and worst' by climate change and passage of legislation reducing U.S. emissions by 80 percent of 1990 levels by 2050 is critical to the health of our rivers. Knowing your love of rivers, we look forward to working with you to mitigate, and adapt to, the grave impacts that global warming is having on the rivers we both cherish.

In light of your long-standing personal connection with American Rivers, your strong and effective leadership, and your consistent advocacy for rivers and clean water we support you as Chairman of the Commerce and Energy Committee.

Sincerely,

Andrew Fahlund
Vice President Conservation