

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 24, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

The American Clean Energy and Security Act (H.R. 2454) includes several provisions related to the use of biomass and biomass-based fuels. We have agreed on the definition of renewable fuels to be used in this bill for the renewable electricity standard, the renewable fuel standard, and the global warming pollution program. As a result of changing the definition of renewable biomass from what was in the Energy and Commerce reported bill, we also agree on the need to account for the carbon footprint of biofuels and biomass used for electricity and power generation through the carbon accounting system in the global warming pollution program or an equally effective mechanism.

Implementing this change in the bill raises a number of details that will need to be worked through between us and with stakeholders. We do not have time to resolve these details before House passage, so we are not including biomass and biofuels under the cap for purposes of House action. But we want you to know that we are both committed to developing appropriate provisions so that we can have a complete resolution of this important matter.

We also agree to look at additional options for promoting energy independence and protecting the environment, such as a national low-carbon fuel standard.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce



Collin C. Peterson
Chairman
Committee on Agriculture