

ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH 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

July 7, 2010

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Waxman:

I write you today requesting that the Energy and Commerce Committee hold budget hearings for the Departments and agencies under our jurisdiction as soon as possible. These hearings are an important part of the work this Committee does, as they allow all of our Members an opportunity to review and analyze the use of taxpayer dollars.

As you will recall, the last budget hearing held was on February 4 of this year, when Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius testified about the 2011 HHS budget. Since then, no other budget hearing has been held or scheduled. I note that in the 110th Congress, this Committee held budget hearings for the following: HHS, Department of Commerce, Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). There have been no budget hearings on the last three in over two years. It is inappropriate for us to avoid this important oversight.

As these hearings have been considered both important and routine in the past, I respectfully ask you to immediately make efforts to schedule hearings on the budgets for the following: Department of Energy, Department of Commerce, and the EPA. I look forward to your prompt response and these hearings.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member