

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

August 6, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer,

Recent news reports indicate that when you introduce your cap-and-trade bill in September, you will leave out crucial provisions that will determine the cost to American families and workers. The American people deserve to know how your cap and trade proposal will impact their energy bills and jobs. Therefore, we insist that any cap and trade legislation you intend for the Committee to review and eventually mark up include all important provisions and not empty placeholders.

To what degree families will pay higher utility bills, farmers will face higher production costs, drivers will face more pain at the pump, and workers will face a greater likelihood of losing their jobs depends upon how a cap and trade program distributes its tradable allowances. This makes knowing the allocation scheme vital to determining who it will help and who it will hurt.

We cannot repeat the process of the House where vital allocation information was left out of the bill reviewed by the Energy & Commerce Committee. Senate hearing witnesses would face the impossible task of estimating program impacts on key stakeholders without vital information. This would prevent Senators from questioning program impacts on key constituencies. One must wonder how the Committee could even hold legislative hearings on legislation lacking its key provisions.

For these reasons, we urge you to include all important provisions with no placeholders in any cap and trade legislation you intend the Committee to review. The Committee will need adequate time to assess and analyze the bill's key provisions. A legislative process that is fair, open and transparent requires no less.

Sincerely,

Paul Kelly

George V. Kenovich

Daniel Vitter

Jeff Bond

Mike Crespo

Lamar Alexander

John Barrasso