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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RYAN JACKSON, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
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October 15, 2015

Mr. Todd Stern
Special Envoy for Climate Change
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Stern:

On behalf of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, I would like to invite you to testify before a hearing on Tuesday, October 20, 2015, beginning at 2:45 p.m. in Room 406 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The purpose of the hearing is to conduct oversight of the ongoing international climate negotiations and also examine the role that domestic environmental policies play in any final agreement. The Committee is also inviting as witnesses a representative of the Environmental Protection Agency, and Ms. Christy Goldfuss, managing director of the Council on Environmental Quality.

Given your central role in developing U.S. international policy on climate and as the President's chief climate negotiator working on the Paris agreement expected at the end of this year, your participation as a witness is important to comprehensive oversight of the President's domestic and international climate change efforts. Specifically, committee members are interested in discussing the development of the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), the role of domestic regulatory actions in any agreement and in the enforcement of any agreement, the coordination among associated agencies, and how these domestic actions are being characterized before the international community.

The Environment and Public Works Committee has a history of receiving testimony from Administration witnesses other than environmental agencies. The Committee has not only received testimony from officials at the State Department, the Committee has received testimony from the Department of Energy, Department of Justice, the Department of Agriculture, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Council of Economic Advisors, among others.

At least since the late 1990's, State Department witnesses testified at the invitation of Chairman John Chafee concerning climate change and proposed U.S. commitments toward the Kyoto Protocol. State Department witnesses have testified twice before the EPW Committee in 2002 concerning implementing legislation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and in a joint hearing with the Foreign Relations Committee to review the

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implementation of environmental treaties. In 2004, the State Department testified before the EPW Committee concerning the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. In 2005, the State Department testified before the EPW Committee concerning the status of international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. An EPA or CEQ witness was not present at all these hearings either.

Your participation is consistent with this practice.

I also note that you testified before the House Select Committee for Energy Independence and Global Warming on September 10, 2009, to discuss “the state of our negotiations on an international climate agreement.” You also testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee in 2009 concerning negotiations related to climate change leading to Copenhagen, and finally you testified in 2011 before the House Foreign Affairs Committee concerning “UN Climate Talks and Power Politics: It’s Not About the Temperature.” The EPW Committee members would benefit from your testimony and experience in negotiations related to climate change.

In order to maximize the opportunity to discuss this matter with you and other witnesses, we ask that your oral testimony be limited to five minutes. Your written testimony can be comprehensive and will be included in the printed record in its entirety, together with any other materials you would like to submit.

To comply with Committee rules, please e-mail a copy of your testimony to joe_brown@epw.senate.gov and deliver 100 hard copies (double-sided if possible) 48 hours in advance of the hearing. If one is available, you may include a brief biography as well. If you plan to use or refer to any charts, graphs, diagrams, photos, maps or other exhibits in your testimony, please include an electronic or hard copy in your advance submissions. Exhibits or other materials that are not provided to the Committee by this time cannot be used for the purpose of presenting testimony. Testimony should be delivered to the EPW Committee at 410 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510. Due to security restrictions, only couriers or employees with government identification will be permitted to bring packages into the building.

If you have any questions about the invitation or the hearing, please feel free to contact Mandy Gunasekara on the Committee’s Majority staff at (202) 224-6176.

Sincerely,



JAMES M. INHOFE
Chairman