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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

RYAN JACKSON, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
BETTINA POIRIER, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

October 16, 2015

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

Dear Mr. Stern:

I am pleased to inform you that due to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee notice yesterday inviting you to testify at a hearing to be held Tuesday, October 20, 2015, beginning at 2:45 p.m. in Room 419 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, we are postponing the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee hearing scheduled for that day. However, we are strongly considering rescheduling the hearing for a future date.

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 remain 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.

To reiterate, 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 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.

Stern  
Oct. 16, 2015  
Page 2 of 2

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.

However, more importantly for the purposes of this letter, I also noted that you testified as the sole witness 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." I believe if you are able to testify before a House select committee which focused on "reductions in emissions and other activities that contribute to climate change and global warming," you should be able to testify before the Senate standing committee which has the Senate's jurisdiction of environmental policy.

If you have any questions about the invitation or the hearing, please direct your staff to contact Ryan Jackson on the Committee's Majority staff at (202) 224-6176.

Sincerely,



JAMES M. INHOFE  
Chairman