United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 2, 2009

Dear Chairman Boxer:

We write to you regarding the "Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act" (S. 1733), which the Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committee began considering last week. While the drafting of policies this important and far reaching is difficult, passage will be an even greater challenge. For such efforts to succeed, a level of bipartisan support will be necessary.

As the Ranking Members of the six committees that have jurisdiction over a great deal of the matters addressed by S. 1733, we felt it important to let you know that we are deeply troubled by the failure to accommodate a request from Senator Voinovich and other Republicans for a complete analysis of the bill's projected impacts on the nation.

As real as the challenge posed by global warming may be, so too are the costs associated with bills that seek to address the matter. Under any circumstances, your and Senator Kerry's legislation would require substantial deliberation on whether to support or oppose its contents. In a time of widespread unemployment, tenuous economic recovery, and record deficits, this is even more vital. We believe EPW Committee members, members of our Committees, and Senators in general should not be expected to make a decision of this magnitude without a full and complete analysis of the likely effects of S. 1733.

While such analyses are never perfect, they are an essential aspect of the legislative decision-making process when policy changes of such consequence are in play. As is the case with legislation itself, these analyses are worth the time and resources required to not only get them done, but to get them done right.

We understand that there may be an effort to report S. 1733 from the EPW Committee not only without a satisfactory analysis, but also without sufficient opportunity to address the bipartisan concerns raised over the course of legislative hearings on the measure. As we are sure you will understand, from our viewpoint, such an approach would severely damage, rather than help, the chances of enacting changes to our nation's climate and energy policies.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and hope that we can continue to work with you and all of our Senate colleagues on the issues we face in a measured and responsible way.

Sincerely,

Senator Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Energy & Natural Resources Cmte.

Senator Saxby Chambliss
Ranking Member
Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Cmte.

Senator Chuck Grassley
Ranking Member
Finance Cmte.

Senator Richard G. Lugar
Ranking Member
Foreign Relations Cmte.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Commerce, Science & Transportation Cmte.

Senator James M. Inhofe
Ranking Member
Environment & Public Works Cmte.