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April 23, 2009

The Honorable Jon Wellinghoff
Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman Wellinghoff:

We write to request respectfully that you provide your separate view as a Commissioner on an important background question about the siting of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) and carbon storage facilities. We note the 2007 National Petroleum Council report, Hard Truths: Facing the Hard Truths about Energy, which observed that, while technologies for CCS were available, "still missing is the demonstration of fully integrated CCS at commercial scale, along with an established legal and regulatory environment that will enable and encourage CCS."

Given the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) long history in regulating energy markets, the transmission of electricity, and the siting of natural gas pipelines and storage facilities, your individual experience as a Commissioner would help the Committee understand the policy approaches involving commercial deployment of large-scale CCS.

Our question is as follows: Based on your understanding and FERC's experience with energy markets, would the private sector make large-scale investments in CCS in the absence of any federal law addressing siting, rate-making structure, and liability issues?

Your response to this question within two weeks of receipt of this letter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Joe Barton
Ranking Member



Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Chairman
The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

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The Honorable Phillip D. Moeller
Commissioner
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Commissioner Moeller:

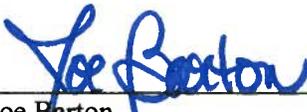
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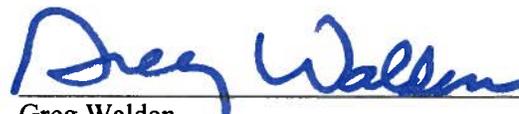
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Joe Barton
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The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman
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The Honorable Marc Spitzer
Commissioner
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Commissioner Spitzer:

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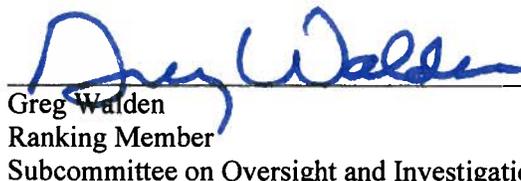
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The Honorable Suedeen G. Kelly
Commissioner
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Commissioner Kelly:

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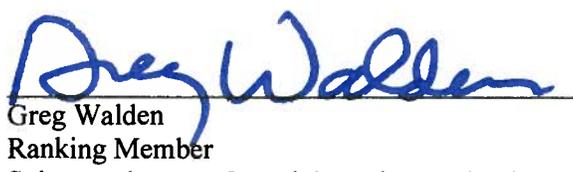
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