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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
CONGRESSIONAL HEALTH CARE CAUCUS,
CHAIRMAN

December 1, 2009

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Edward Markey
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy & Environment

The Honorable Bart Stupak
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations

The Honorable Joe Barton
Ranking Member
House Energy & Commerce Committee
2322A Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Fred Upton
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy & Environment

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight & Investigations

Re: Request for Hearing on Doctored Climate Change Science

Dear Chairmen Waxman, Markey and Stupak and Ranking Members Barton, Upton and Walden:

As more information is becoming available regarding the email conversations among climate scientists at the University of East Anglia's Climate Research Unit (CRU), it is clear further investigation into the doctored reports from CRU is necessary. Numerous reports now suggest that the scientists at CRU intentionally excluded data that did not fit into their political agenda from being included in its reports. Further, new reports also suggest that these same scientists, who suppressed data that undermined the climate models they were hoping to achieve, subsequently discarded the raw data thus preventing independent peer review of the work done by CRU.

Indeed, the very studies this Committee relied on when crafting H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009, were published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) at the United Nations, which in turn based its conclusions in large part on the findings at CRU.

If what these emails say is correct, it calls into question the scientific foundations this Committee based many of its legislative decisions on within the realm of climate change legislation. Because many of the arguments used to pass this legislation were predicated on the "sound science" the legislation was based on, the entire legislation should be considered tainted until this matter is resolved.

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I respectfully request the Committee begin a full investigation into the CRU emails and the validity of the work done by these scientists, as well as the impact that CRU's biased studies had on the IPCC's conclusions. False data from these reports has further been used by the Department of Defense in making its conclusions on the impacts of climate change on national security. We have yet to know the impact these politicized scientific findings have had on our understanding of the global climate.

Until this matter is fully investigated, this Committee should consider any reports from CRU or the IPCC as tainted and invalid. I look forward to working with you as the Committee investigates these serious allegations. All members of this Committee should want to clear up any questions surrounding the validity of the science used in crafting legislation.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

MCB:jd