

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, February 11, 1998.

Hon. TOM BLILEY,
Hon. JOHN D. DINGELL,
Committee on Commerce, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BLILEY AND REPRESENTATIVE DINGELL: Maintaining a renewable energy option for America has been a public policy supported by the past four Republican and Democratic Administrations and by large bipartisan majorities in the Congress. This is so because America's clean and domestic renewable energy resources help create U.S. jobs, contribute to a cleaner environment and healthier citizenry, and strengthen U.S. energy security by increasing America's diversity of domestic fuel supplies.

As the U.S. electricity industry undergoes change, we want to reiterate our strong support for maintaining America's renewable energy option. We urge that, when the Commerce Committee moves forward with electric industry restructuring legislation, such legislation contains provisions ensuring that the American people will continue to benefit from an increased utilization of clean and domestic renewable energy resources.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

SCOTT KLUG.
DAVID MINGE.
MATT SALMON.
KAREN THURMAN.

LIST OF MEMBERS SIGNING RENEWABLE ENERGY LETTER

Scott Klug, (R-WI); Matt Salmon, (R-AZ); David Minge, (D-MN); Karen Thurman (D-FL); Sander Levin, (D-MI); Sherwood Boehlert, (R-NY); Lucille Roybal-Allard, (D-CA); Constance Morella, (R-MD); Benjamin Cardin, (D-MD); John Lewis, (D-GA); Wayne Gilchrest, (R-MD); Vernon Ehlers, (R-MI); Peter DeFazio, (D-OR); Ronald Dellums, (D-CA); Benjamin Gilman, (R-NY); Sue Kelly, (R-NY); Sue Kelly, (R-NY); Sam Farr, (D-CA); Earl Blumenauer, (D-OR); Collin Peterson, (D-MN); Edolphus Towns, (D-NY); Lynn Woolsey, (D-CA); Maurice Hinchey, (D-NY); John Ensign, (R-NV); Lynn Rivers, (D-MI); Nita Lowey, (D-NY); Patrick Kennedy, (D-RI); Tim Holden, (D-PA); Bud Cramer, (D-AL); Chris John, (D-LA); Jane Harman, (D-CA); Jose Serrano, (D-NY); Frank Riggs, (R-CA); John Edward Porter, (R-IL); Ed Pastor, (D-AZ); Jon Fox (R-PA); Ellen Tauscher, (D-CA); Owen Pickett, (D-VA); Jim Turner, (D-TX); Roscoe Bartlett, (R-MD); Gary Ackerman, (D-NY); Pasty Mink, (D-HI); James McGovern, (D-MA); James Walsh, (R-NY); James Greenwood, (R-PA); John Shimkus, (R-IL); Elizabeth Furse, (D-OR); Earl Pomeroy, (D-ND); William Delahunt, (D-MA); Christopher Shays, (R-CT); Marion Berry, (D-AR); F. Allen Boyd, Jr., (D-FL); Henry Waxman, (D-CA); Sony Bono, (R-CA); Michael Castle, (R-DE); Tom Campbell, (R-CA); Lane Evans, (D-IL); Dale Kildee, (D-MI); Vic Fazio, (D-CA); Nathan Deal, (R-GA); Edward Markey, (D-MA); Bob Filner, (D-CA); Ray LaHood, (R-IL); James Oberstar, (D-MN); Barney Frank, (D-MA); John LaFalce, (D-NY); George Brown, (D-CA); Frank Pallone, (D-NJ); Martin Olav Sabo, (D-MN); Howard Berman, (D-CA); Esteban Torres, (D-CA); James Rogan, (R-CA); Mark Foley, (R-FL); George Miller, (D-GA); Bruce Vento, (D-MN); Jim McDermott, (D-WA); Jim Leach, (R-IA); Robert Scott, (D-VA); Eva Clayton, (D-NC); Robert Pelosi, (D-CA); Leonard Boswell, (D-IA); Martin Meehan, (D-MA); Lloyd Doggett, (D-TX); James Clyburn, (D-SC); Bart Stupak, (D-MI); David Skaggs, (D-CO); David Bonior, (D-MI); Nancy Johnson, (R-CT); Jim Davis, (D-FL); Jerrold Nadler, (D-NY); Dennis Kucinich, (D-OH); Bill Barrett, (R-NE); Dar-

lene Hooley, (D-OR); Bob Franks, (R-NY); John Olver, (D-MA); Thomas Ewing (R-IL); Caroylyn Maloney, (D-NY); Jim Kolbe (R-AZ); Jay Dickey, (R-AR); Rick Lazio, (R-NY); Barbara Kennelly, (D-CT); Rober Matsui, (D-CA); Bob Clement, (D-TN); Joseph Kennedy II, (D-MA); Tom Davis, (R-VA); Zoe Lofgren, (D-CA); Tom Lantos, (D-CA).

YORK COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the efforts of the York County Literacy Council on their "Buck A Book Week." This annual event was established in 1993 with the help of one of York County's radio stations, WSBA. The event has been highly successful in motivating people to read and in bringing new public awareness to the issue of literacy.

Literacy is the backbone of an education. I believe the York County Literacy Council and all the Literacy Councils in my district have done an excellent job in improving literacy. Their mission has been to serve adults who lack basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics, and to improve collaboration among service providers. The "Buck A Book Week" certainly exemplifies their proactive approach to addressing the problem of illiteracy.

I believe illiteracy is one of the most serious problems facing our country. It seriously restricts the ability of individuals to participate effectively in the workforce. It has been estimated that up to 90 percent of those entering Federal training and employment programs without a high school diploma have serious literacy problems. In contrast, individuals who demonstrate higher levels of literacy skills tend to avoid long periods of unemployment, earn higher wages and work in higher skilled occupations than those at the lowest levels.

Mr. Speaker, through quality, innovative programs and the diligent efforts of individuals and community organizations such as the York County Literacy Council, the Central Pennsylvania Literacy Council, and the Adams County Literacy Council, the tragedy of illiteracy may one day become a thing of the past. I applaud these Councils on their efforts and commend them on a job well done.

THE 1996 TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT: BLUNTED BY THE BUREAUCRACY

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, the biggest problem with the 1996 Telecommunications Act isn't the way it was drafted, it's the way the bureaucrats at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) have decided to implement it.

Much of what the FCC has done has been reversed on appeal by the courts, or pulled back for reconsideration by the FCC itself. The law has been good for Washington lawyers and economists. It has been great for the

paper industry. But from the public's standpoint, the new law hasn't delivered on its promises.

Maybe our basic mistake was to place an independent regulatory agency in charge of trying to promote competition. If Congress had relied on the Washington bureaucracy, instead of the marketplace, to foster competition in the airline, surface transportation, energy or banking fields, we would still be waiting for true competition in those areas.

You don't need 3 years in law school to figure out that Congress expected results. Throughout the 1996 Act, Congress imposed 90-day deadlines on the FCC to act. Why would Congress establish deadlines like that if the result were no long distance applications accepted by the FCC?

The FCC has new leadership today. Four of the five FCC Commissioners are new. It seems to me that the agency's approach over the past 2 years has been wrong. They need to try a different approach.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have any magic solutions. Coming up with solutions, after all, is why we have a FCC. Congress and the American public didn't support communications reform just to help the Washington lawyers. Something needs to be done, and soon.

COMMENDING VOLUNTEER EFFORTS DURING THE SUPERTYPHOON PAKA

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on December 16, Supertyphoon Paka destroyed or severely damaged more than 8,000 homes, injuring more than 200 people and leaving more than 3,000 families homeless. Of the homeless, more than 1,000 required temporary housing immediately. To the relief of these people, the Government of Guam Disaster Housing Office was quick to respond. The Liheng-ta Facility was put up to temporarily house the over 1,000 individuals who needed temporary shelter.

I rise today to commend and congratulate a number of individuals who have distinguished themselves in the midst of the most recent natural disaster to hit the island of Guam. I would like to submit for the record the names of the people who made this all possible, some of whom are still working at the facility as we speak.

First of all, I would like to make mention of people who managed the shelters: Mr. Robert Kelley, the director of the Disaster Housing Office; Jordan Kaye, the administrator of the Liheng-ta Facility; Ms. Marcia V. Mesa, the head nurse; and the staff officers: Cecilia S. Delgado; Doris Young; Frank D. Santos, Jr.; Greg S. Massy; Francis L.G. Damian; Isabel J. Gawel; Teresita D. Finona; Frances Diaz; David R. Duenas.

Lt. L.F. Castro was the Officer in Charge of the police officers tasked to provide security. Working under him were Sgt. II T.P. Tenorio, Operations Sergeant; Sgt. I M.P. Salas; Sgt. I D.C. Acfalle; PO3 P.H. Villanueva; PO3 M.J. Sayama; PO3 R.P. Fernandez; PO3 M.L. Mendoza; PO2 G.S. Topasna; PO2 K.S. Espinosa; PO2 M.M. Muna; PO2 W.J. Penn;

PO2 A.J. Balajadia; PO2 P.T. Atoigue; PO2 A.B. Quitugua; PO2 J.C. Borja; PO3 D.J. Arceo; PO2 H.C. Flores; PO2 A.R.B. Pierce; CO/SGT. M.A. Reyes; D/L P.R. Manley; D/L N.J. Gogo; CO1 R.L. Delfin; CO1 P.C. Aguon; CO1 M.G. Villagomez; CO1 M.D. Aguon; CO1 F.C. Quinata; DO R.L. Blas; DO J.C. Tedtaotao; P/RCT. P.R. Blas; P/RCT. D.D. Cepeda; P/RCT. J.S. Babauta; and P/RCT. R.M. Lujan.

Last but not least, I would like to commend the men and women of the Guam Air and Army National Guard and the Army Reserves for the invaluable service they provided. It was Guam's citizen soldiers and airmen who prepared and maintained the facilities. They made sure that the buildings were safe, in good condition and provided hot meals for the residents.

These men and women came from every corner of the island. Through their sense of duty, they supported and aided those who had been less fortunate. For this they should be honored and recognized. Si Yu'os Ma'ase for

your public service to the victims of Typhoon Paka.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET AND SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. DAVID M. MCINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. MCINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, the President, in his State of the Union address, told the American people that he intends to devote the entire budget surplus to saving Social Security. But, the American people should know that so far his actions have not been consistent with the promise.

In fact, in his recent budget, the President has proposed to spend more on the Federal bureaucracy. That's more money for big government in Washington, D.C., not for saving Social Security and certainly not back in the

pockets of hard-working Americans where it belongs.

The President proposed a 3% increase, on average, in the budgets of the 26 Federal agencies under my Subcommittee's jurisdiction alone. For some agencies the increases were larger than others—11% more for the Department of Energy and 9% more for the EPA. (I have a chart detailing the President's requests for these 26 agencies which I would like to insert into the record.) I doubt many Americans would consider it a priority to send more money to these already-bloated agencies, which will use it to create more government red tape.

Mr. Speaker, we in the Congress must not allow the President to get away with this slight of hand—he is trying to secretly use the surplus to increase big government, but get credit for using it to save Social Security. The President needs to tell the truth to the American people—they deserve to know how their money is spent.

ANALYSIS OF BUDGET REQUESTS FOR AGENCIES UNDER CONGRESSMAN MCINTOSH'S OVERSIGHT¹

[Budget Authority in millions²]

Department/Independent Agency	Fiscal year 1997 actual	Fiscal year 1998 budget estimate	Fiscal year 1999 budget request	Percent change fiscal year 1998-99
USDA	60,876	55,859	57,435	2.8
DOD/Army Corps of Engineers	4,157	4,098	3,258	20.5
DOC	3,759	4,149	4,955	19.4
DOE	14,082	14,458	16,063	11.1
DOI	7,411	7,926	7,867	-0.7
DOT (including Surface Transportation Board)	40,208	42,058	42,610	1.3
DOT/Surface Transportation Board	12	14		
Treasury	380,179	389,289	401,037	3.0
ARC	160	170	67	-60.6
CEA/EOP	3	4	4	0
CEQ/EOP	2	3	3	0
CFTC	55	58	63	8.6
CPSC	42	45	46	2.2
EPA	6,478	7,176	7,787	8.5
Export-Import Bank of the US	758	696	825	18.5
FDIC	-26	-44	-51	-15.9
FTC	26	24	27	12.5
NCUA	1	1		-100.0
NTSB	79	49	48	2.0
NRC	18	19	22	15.8
OPIC/CDA	-112	-175	-176	-0.6
SEC	-62	-50	-5	90.0
SBA	838	186	680	265.6
TVA	-291	-841	-946	-12.5
USITC	41	41	46	12.2
U.S. Trade & Development Agency	54	42	50	19.0
USTR/EOP	21	23	25	8.7
Total ⁴	518,757	525,264	541,740	3.1

¹ The Delaware River Basin Commission, Freddie Mac, the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and the Thrift Depositor Protection Oversight Board are not included in the President's Budget because they are classified as being private; the Federal Reserve System is not included in the President's Budget because of its unique status in the conduct of monetary policy.

² Source: Analytical Perspectives, Budget of the U.S. Government Fiscal Year 1999.

³ Treasury, USDA, and DOT account for 92.5% of the FY 99 budget request under Congressman McIntosh's oversight.