

April 6, 2011

The Honorable Chris Smith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2373 Rayburn House Office Building,  
District of Columbia 20515-3004

Dear Congressman Smith:

Republicans for Environmental Protection (REP), a national grassroots organization of Republican voters, respectfully urges you to vote against H.R. 910, introduced by Representative Upton, which seeks to prevent action by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to regulate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

While it would be reasonable for Congress to consider EPA's role within the context of climate legislation, it is not prudent to tie the hands of EPA when there is no realistic prospect of Congress agreeing on comprehensive legislation to address GHG emissions over the next two years.

It is noteworthy that Stephen L. Johnson, President Bush's EPA Administrator, proposed virtually the same approach in 2008 that the Obama Administration EPA is currently pursuing. In a letter to President Bush (attached), Johnson wrote "*the latest science of climate change requires the Agency to propose a positive endangerment finding*" and called the EPA approach "*prudent and cautious yet forward thinking.*"

Furthermore, EPA administrators from the Nixon, Reagan and George W. Bush administrations have recently weighed in strongly against legislation introduced by Senator Inhofe (and now contained in the McConnell amendment) that prevents EPA from limiting GHG pollution under the Clean Air Act.

Russell Train recently wrote a very insightful letter to Senate leadership opposing the Senate version of this legislation (attached). Bill Ruckelshaus and Christine Todd Whitman authored a [joint op-ed](#) in the Washington Post explaining their opposition.

In addition to being concerned about the climate impacts of such legislation, REP is also concerned that such attacks on EPA also reflect badly on our party and its commitment to responsible stewardship. Polling has consistently shown broad public opposition to this legislation and other efforts designed to prevent EPA from controlling pollution.

REP will include this vote in its 2011 congressional scorecard.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

David Jenkins  
Vice President for Government and Political Affairs