




**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Glenn English
Chief Executive Officer

March 9, 2011

The Honorable Ed Whitfield
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Energy and Power
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Whitfield:

On behalf of America's electric cooperative utilities serving 42 million consumers in 47 states, I am writing in support of the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011 (H.R. 910).

NRECA has long argued that the Clean Air Act was never intended to regulate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. It was simply never designed to address a substance as ubiquitous as CO₂. Electric cooperatives believe efforts to address carbon emissions should not be addressed by federal agencies using existing statutes or through the Courts (through so-called "nuisance suits"). We agree with your conclusion that regulating CO₂ through the Clean Air Act is not a wise solution.

As such, NRECA has consistently supported efforts to pre-empt the use of the Clean Air Act to regulate CO₂ emissions (particularly from stationary sources) and will continue to do so. The recognition by you, Chairman Upton and other committee members that keeping electric bills affordable is essential as we restore our nation's diminished economic capacity.

The Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011 will eliminate an inappropriate tool for regulating greenhouse gases. Enacting this legislation will take a bipartisan effort in Congress, and NRECA is urging members of both parties, in the House and the Senate, to work together to craft a plan that can garner the votes to pass and not simply treat this issue as a political football – it is too important.

We applaud the strong leadership by you and House Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton on this issue and we support your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn English".

Glenn English

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce

