FRED UPTON, MICHIGAN
CHAIRMAN

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6115
Majority (202) 225–2927
Minority (202) 225–3641

January 22, 2013

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

As we begin the 113th Congress, I wanted to share a memorandum prepared by my staff analyzing legislative success in the last Congress and the central role bipartisanship plays in determining whether a bill became a law or was simply a political statement that went nowhere. Our analysis shows that virtually all the Energy and Commerce bills that became law were those that had the support of the majority of the Democrats on the Committee.

Last Congress, there were over 30 bills that the Republicans reported from the Committee without the support of the majority of Democratic caucus or brought directly to the floor without Democratic support. Of these, just two became law in some form. Ironically, one of these two successes blocked enforcement of energy-efficiency standards for light bulbs that you wrote. That's a batting average of under 100.

Coincidentally, there were also over 30 bills that the Democrats negotiated with the Republicans. Eighteen of these bills became law. That's a batting average of over 500. These included our Committee's biggest legislative accomplishments like the spectrum bill and the FDA bill.

Our Committee is most effective when Republicans and Democrats work together. As we start this new Congress, I look forward to finding areas of agreement and working together on a bipartisan basis on legislation to improve the lives of Americans.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member