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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

August 6, 2013

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

The Committee on Energy and Commerce is conducting oversight relating to the Administration's current and planned climate change activities, including the actions identified in the President's Climate Action Plan released on June 25, 2013. To assist the Committee and to provide specific information about your agency's climate-related activities, I write to request that you or your designee testify on Wednesday, September 18, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, at a hearing of the Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Energy and Power entitled "The Obama Administration's Climate Change Policies and Activities."

At the hearing, we seek to hear from relevant Federal agencies about U.S. climate change policies and the Administration's second term climate agenda, and to obtain fuller information regarding the Federal government's past, current, and planned domestic and international activities, climate research programs, initiatives, and new regulatory requirements. In preparing your agency's written testimony, I request that you include the following information:

(1) Describe the climate change related research and technology programs or activities engaged in by your agency, including programs or activities undertaken with other Federal agencies.

(2) Describe the climate change adaptation, mitigation, or sustainability related activities engaged in by your agency, including activities undertaken with other Federal agencies.

(3) Identify all climate change related interagency task forces, advisory committees, working groups, and initiatives in which your agency currently participates or has participated since January 2005.

(4) Identify all climate change or clean energy related funding, grants or financial assistance programs in which your agency currently participates or has participated, and the amounts of climate change or clean energy related funding, grants, or financial assistance distributed by your agency, if any, since January 2005.

(5) Identify all climate change related regulations or guidance documents, including regulations or standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, issued, or proposed by your agency since January 2005, and/or under development by your agency.

(6) Identify all climate change related international negotiations, agreements, partnerships, working groups, or initiatives in which your agency currently or has previously participated, and the role of your agency in those activities, since January 2005.

(7) Provide the approximate amount of annual agency funds attributed to climate change activities for each of the years 2005 through 2012.

(8) Describe the actions your agency has undertaken to respond to the Executive Order 13514 including the approximate costs, personnel, and other resources dedicated by your agency to implementing this executive order.

(9) Provide a list of each sub-agency, division and/or program office within your agency that is currently engaged in climate change related activities, and provide an estimate of the approximate number of your agency employees and/or contractors currently engaged part-time or full-time in climate change related activities.

Please confirm your agency's witness for the September 18, 2013, hearing no later than August 21, 2013, with Nick Abraham of the Majority Committee staff at (202) 225-2927. Additional instructions relating to the hearing and the submission of testimony will be provided under separate cover.

Sincerely,

Ed Whitfield

Ed Whitfield
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Power

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Bobby L. Rush, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Energy and Power