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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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CHAIRMAN

December 2, 2008

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Mr. Ben Yamagata
Executive Director
Coal Utilization Research Council
1050 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Mr. Yamagata:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials at the July 24, 2008, hearing entitled, "Carbon Sequestration: Risks, Opportunities, and Protection of Drinking Water". We appreciate the time and effort you gave as a witness before the subcommittee.

Under the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open to permit Members to submit additional questions to the witnesses. Attached are questions from a subcommittee Member for inclusion in the record. In preparing your answers to these questions, please include the text of the question along with your response.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, your responses to these questions should be received by no later than the close of business on **Tuesday, December 16, 2008**. Your written responses should be delivered to 2322-B Rayburn House Office Building to the attention of Rachel Bleshman. An electronic version of your response should also be sent by e-mail to Ms. Bleshman at rachel.bleshman@mail.house.gov. Please send your response in a single Word formatted document.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Rachel Bleshman with the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,


JOHN D. DINGELL
CHAIRMAN

Mr. Ben Yamagata
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Attachment

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Gene Green, Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials

The Honorable John Shadegg, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Environment and Hazardous Materials

The Honorable John B. Shadegg

1. You suggest that early adopters of sequestration should have the long-term liability of their CO2 storage transferred to and accepted by the government. Will the private sector be willing to engage in CO2 storage if the liability issues are not addressed?
2. In testimony before our Energy and Air Quality Subcommittee, the NRDC said that we shouldn't move forward on legislation to help finance carbon capture and sequestration deployment projects unless it's part of a comprehensive cap-and-trade bill. Do you agree with that statement, or do you think that it's essential for us to move forward on developing carbon capture and sequestration technology before any efforts to cap CO2?
3. I find the prospect of possible electricity blackouts in 2009 alarming. Should we move forward on building new coal-fired plants now and worry about trying to retrofit them later? Can we truly afford to halt the construction of coal plants altogether until the technology has matured?