

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

MEMO

To: Republican Colleagues
From: Congressman Fred Upton
Date: December 7, 2010

Today, I ask for your support as Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee. As a steady leader, a tough legislator, and a consistent team player, I have a strong vision for a new way to lead this Committee.

Pelosi never listened to the American people and she never lived up to her promises. We will do both. We have a clear mandate to cut the size of government, reduce spending, and reverse costly job-killing regulations. The change will be evident from day one at the Energy and Commerce Committee, where as a result of House Republican reforms that instituted term limits, there is a vacancy for Chairman.

In the past, we have seen jurisdictional infighting between Committees, and a lack of communication from Chairmen to their Members, to the Conference, and with the leadership. These public feuds have hampered our ability to get things done. Those days are over. I have a well-earned reputation as a team player. We are all on the same team with the same goals and need to work together accordingly. As Chairman, I will work hand-in-glove with my fellow Committee Chairmen and communicate constantly with our Committee Members and our Conference.

With 12 years experience as a Subcommittee Chairman and Ranking Member, I have a proven ability to run this Committee professionally and inclusively with a strong agenda and a clear vision. I will work with the team to execute our strategy and deliver on our agenda. If I am elected Chairman, policy will not be dictated out of the Chairman's office as we have seen in the past. We have too many outstanding Members with too much experience and knowledge of the problems facing our country for decisions to be made from on high and behind closed doors. I alone do not have all the answers. Every member of the Committee will play an active role. I view the role of Chairman as ensuring that the Committee is consistently advancing towards our Republican goals and drawing from the strengths of all our members.

Our communications strategy will involve every member and elevate junior members to the spotlight on issues that matter most to them. Under my leadership, the Energy and Commerce Committee will play a central role in keeping our majority and expanding it.

My vision for the Energy and Commerce Committee is a conservative agenda that focuses on cutting spending, removing the regulatory burden, restoring freedom, keeping government accountable through rigorous oversight, and jobs. We are going to take a coordinated approach that involves other Committees and our Conference, and focuses on an aggressive communications strategy that effectively articulates our message to the American people. The job-killing policies of Obama and Pelosi end here.

I have fought to curb indecency in public broadcasting with the passage of the Brownback/Upton Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2005, protect our kids from online predators, led the fight for abstinence-only education, and cut spending. I am a proud pro-life member and as Chairman pledge to pass legislation prohibiting federal funds for abortion.

Today the Obama administration is on notice. We will be relentless in our oversight duties and shine a light on regulatory policies that have been hiding in the dark. The Founding Fathers intended Congress to provide a check and balance to the power of the Presidency. Nancy Pelosi has been derelict in that duty. From day one, we will fulfill our constitutional duty

As Chairman, my pledge to the Conference:

- 1) I WILL work with all the members of our Conference as one team;
- 2) I WILL pass legislation to repeal ObamaCare;
- 3) I WILL conduct rigorous oversight of every program, budget, regulation and agency within our jurisdiction;
- 4) I WILL aggressively cut spending by adopting new Committee rules to foster spending cuts and eliminate government programs; and
- 5) I WILL protect the sanctity of human life by rigorous oversight and passing legislation to permanently ensure that no federal funds go toward abortion, including: Rep. Pitts' Protect Life Act.

I have always been and always will be one of the most loyal members of the team. It is not about any of us as individuals. It is about all of us together working as a cohesive unit to advance our ideals and our conservative agenda and lay the groundwork for victory in 2012. As I learned from my old boss, President Ronald Reagan, "There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit."

There are powerful forces working against us, pushing a liberal agenda that will do further damage to our economy. The American people not only rejected the Democrats' misguided vision for America, they also heard our message. Our message of cutting spending, reducing the size of government, and removing the regulatory burden that has hampered economic growth and destroyed jobs. Your priorities are my priorities. They are OUR priorities. We are all here to fight for our constituents and leave a better America for our children and grandchildren. As Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I will FIGHT for these ideals shoulder-to-shoulder with every member of our Conference.

I have the conservative vision, the well-earned reputation as a tough legislator, the proven experience, the steady leadership, and the consensus-building skills to succeed. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton

P.S. I look forward to hearing your ideas. My door is always open. Please call me anytime (5-3761) with your thoughts. I have attached a few of my recent op-eds to give you a sense of my vision for the future.