Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 7, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President
The White House Office
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

In December 2009, your administration plans to attend the 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen, Denmark to discuss a global climate change treaty. We ask that your administration not make any binding commitments to greenhouse gas emission reductions at the Conference until Congress decides the climate change issue in the Cap and Trade legislative proposals currently before us.

Convinced that the United States should not enter these vital negotiations "empty handed," you once pledged to have Cap and Trade legislation passed by the time the summit convenes. This prospect diminishes daily as the Senate postpones debate on Cap and Trade and as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) moves forward with finalizing rules under the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions by vehicles and major industrial sources.

Also, the EPA recently submitted its conclusion to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) which states greenhouse gases endanger the health and safety of the public. Adoption of this judgment lays the legal groundwork for adoption of the new rules and could be issued by OMB before the Copenhagen Conference.

As your negotiators prepare for this important summit, we would urge you not to let them portray ill-conceived carbon regulations under the Clean Air Act or action by the OMB as appropriate substitutes for Congressional action on comprehensive energy legislation. We urge you to allow Congress to appropriately deliberate over your proposals and not use unilateral action by the EPA and the OMB to press forward any binding agreements at the Conference.

Sincerely,

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Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress

Michele Bachmann
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

Paul Broun
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman
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John Culberson
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Virginia Foxx
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