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COMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT  
REFORM

October 30, 2007

Dear Vermonter,

Step It Up 2007's work across Vermont and the nation continues to serve as an inspiration for me and demonstrates to elected leaders around the country that Americans demand aggressive action to combat climate change. It is a source of great pride that Vermonters are stepping up—again!— and providing the urgent, national leadership to tackle this critical issue.

I am pleased to have been the first member of the U.S. House to commit to attending a StepItUp 2 event in this exceptional national movement. Because I will be attending the Burlington event, I regret I am unable to join you. I would appreciate if you would read this to your group on November 3. The work you are doing is outstanding, so please keep it up! And I will continue to do my part.

Congress is making progress in tackling this issue. In August, the House of Representatives took a bold step toward addressing Global Warming by passing H.R. 3221, the New Direction for Energy Independence, National Security, and Consumer Protection Act. Combined with an energy tax bill, H.R. 2771, this legislation will repeal \$15 billion in tax breaks granted to the oil companies and fund investments in renewable energy.

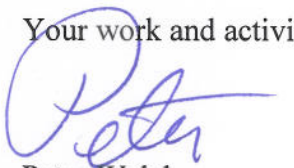
This bill also included the creation of a nation-wide renewable electricity standard. Under this provision, which I strongly support, utility companies will be required to produce 15 percent of their energy from renewable sources.

While passage of this bill is a significant success, much more work still needs to be done. We must increase automobile mileage standards to at least 35 miles per gallon. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 1506, the Fuel Economy Reform Act and I am hopeful that such a standard will be included in our final energy bill.

In addition, I am also an original co-sponsor of legislation to mandate an 80 percent reduction in our greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Finally, as I advocate for more comprehensive policies in Congress to address climate change, I have also taken action by making my own congressional office carbon neutral, through first working to reduce our footprint and then by purchasing offsets from a Vermont-based company.

Your work and activism is making a major difference, so please keep it up... and I will too!



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress