

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 12, 2008

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

During the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's hearing to discuss the FY 2009 Department of Energy (DOE) Budget on February 7, 2008, Secretary Samuel Bodman, under questioning from Representatives John Shimkus and Jan Schakowsky, admitted he made a mistake when he wrote to members of the Illinois Delegation on November 30, 2007, indicating that the FutureGen Project was moving forward as planned.

Secretary Bodman's message that DOE was "diligently working to complete the process and issue the Record of Decision in a timeframe that supports FutureGen site selection by the end of December 2007," while encouraging at the time, did nothing but create false hope for the communities involved in this project. Less than three weeks later, after Mattoon, Illinois was selected as the best site for FutureGen, he decided to pull the plug on this important investment which you first proposed back in 2003.

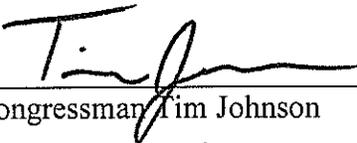
In addition, it was revealed earlier last week that DOE Undersecretary C.H. "Bud" Albright made a disparaging comment about our state. The remark, that DOE wasn't interested in "building Disneyland in some swamp in Illinois," only added insult to injury after citizens in Illinois learned that their government no longer backed this project. While we understand that Mr. Albright apologized, the poor handling of DOE's decision on FutureGen and the insensitive comments about Illinois cannot be forgotten just because he said he was sorry.

Mr. President, the communities and states that competed for this project expended thousands of hours and untold sums of money in good faith that the Administration's commitment to this scientifically worthy project would be fulfilled. Please do not allow their work, and this opportunity, to be wasted.

The demonstrated missteps by DOE's highest representatives further beg for a reconsideration of their misplaced decision to abandon FutureGen. There is an urgent need to develop near-zero emissions coal technologies and FutureGen is ahead of any other project involving carbon capture and sequestration. Under this new proposed approach, there are no guarantees that project costs will not skyrocket and starting from scratch will delay this process even further, which we feel is not in the best interest of the country's energy future.

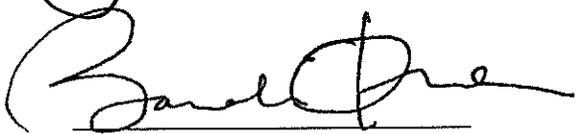
These two examples reveal, at worst incompetence and at best, insensitivity on the part of DOE. This about-face on FutureGen has caused many folks in Illinois to lose faith in their government. Mr. President, you have the power to restore their sense of belief and in light of these events, we urge you to reverse course, instruct DOE to release the Record of Decision, and pledge support for FutureGen in Mattoon, Illinois.

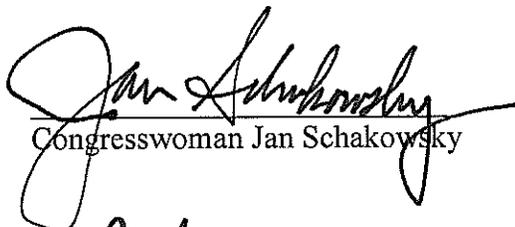
Sincerely,

  
Congressman Tim Johnson

  
Congressman John Shimkus

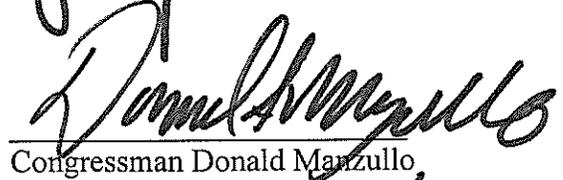
  
Senator Dick Durbin

  
Senator Barack Obama

  
Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky

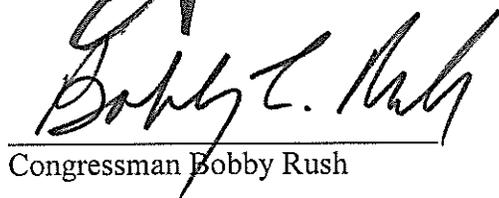
  
Congressman Jerry Costello

  
Congressman Peter Roskam

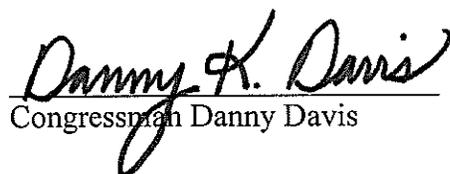
  
Congressman Donald Manzullo

  
Congressman Ray LaHood

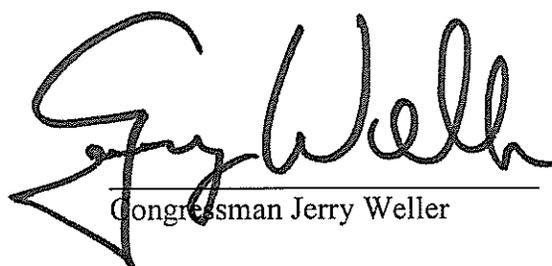
  
Congressman Mark Kirk

  
Congressman Bobby Rush

  
Congressman Daniel Lipinski

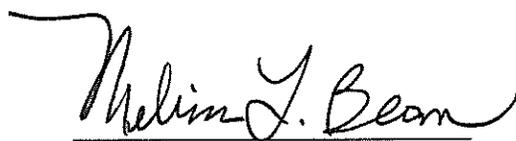
  
Congressman Danny Davis

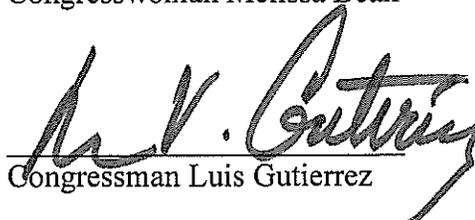
  
Congressman Rahm Emanuel

  
Congressman Jerry Weller

  
Congressman Phil Hare

  
Congresswoman Judy Biggert

  
Congresswoman Melissa Bean

  
Congressman Luis Gutierrez

  
Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr.