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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

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May 15, 2002

The Vice President  
The Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

This week, I wrote to ask that you explain an e-mail in which the deputy director of your energy task force stated that the task force was trying "desperately" to avoid mentioning California. I have since obtained evidence suggesting that the task force actually considered and abandoned plans to address California's energy problems in its report.

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, your spokeswoman responded to my letter of May 14 by saying that the purpose of the National Energy Policy report developed by the task force was "to develop a strategic, long-term energy policy for the country . . . not to focus on short-term problems specific to a state."<sup>1</sup> However, that explanation is difficult to reconcile with an apparent draft table of contents for the NEP dated February 21, 2001, that I have obtained. I have attached the relevant pages of that draft document. Page six refers to an appendix to the NEP entitled "Regional Energy Dislocations." The first section of that appendix is entitled "Southwest" and the text reads "California's energy/electricity problems are to be an area of specific focus in discussing the Southwest region's energy problems" (emphasis added). This appendix does not appear in the final version of the NEP.

I continue to find it puzzling that the Administration would have abandoned its plans to address the most pressing energy crisis facing the country. I would therefore appreciate your (1) confirming the authenticity of the attached document, and (2) explaining why the final task force report deleted the discussion of California's energy problems proposed in the February 21, 2001, appendix.

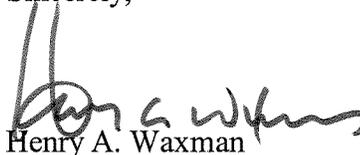
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<sup>1</sup>Questions Raised by E-Mail on Energy, *Los Angeles Times* (May 14, 2002).

The Vice President  
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The appearance created by these documents is that the Administration was indifferent to the plight of millions of Californians facing rolling blackouts and inflated natural gas prices. I urge you to take this opportunity to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry A. Waxman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member

Attachment

**DRAFT**

**FINAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ENERGY  
POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP**

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As of February 21, 2001

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### APPENDIX 1. UNTITLED

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2. CONSTRAINTS AND ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES
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### APPENDIX 2 REGIONAL ENERGY DISLOCATIONS

#### 1. SOUTHWEST

(California's energy/electricity problems are to be an area of specific focus in discussing the Southwest region's energy problems)

(If appropriate to be discussed, the following sub-headings will be used for each region)

- CRUDE OIL
- HEATING OIL
- NATURAL GAS
- HYDROPOWER
- ELECTRICITY
- COAL
- URANIUM
- TRANSPORTATION OF ENERGY RESOURCES - E.G., PIPELINES

#### 2. NORTHWEST

#### 3. MIDWEST

#### 4. NORTHEAST

#### 5. SOUTHEAST