

CHARLES B. RANGEL, NEW YORK,
CHAIRMAN

FORTNEY PETE STARK, CALIFORNIA
SANDER M. LEVIN, MICHIGAN
JIM McDERMOTT, WASHINGTON
JOHN LEWIS, GEORGIA
RICHARD E. NEAL, MASSACHUSETTS
JOHN S. TANNER, TENNESSEE
XAVIER BECERRA, CALIFORNIA
LLOYD DOGGETT, TEXAS
EARL POMEROY, NORTH DAKOTA
MIKE THOMPSON, CALIFORNIA
JOHN B. LARSON, CONNECTICUT
EARL BLUMENAUER, OREGON
RON KIND, WISCONSIN
BILL PASCRELL, Jr., NEW JERSEY
SHELLEY BERKLEY, NEVADA
JOSEPH CROWLEY, NEW YORK
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND
KENDRICK B. MEEK, FLORIDA
ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ, PENNSYLVANIA
ARTUR DAVIS, ALABAMA
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
BOB ETHERIDGE, NORTH CAROLINA
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY

JANICE MAYS,
CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR

Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

1102 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-3625

Washington, DC 20515-6348

<http://waysandmeans.house.gov>

DAVE CAMP, MICHIGAN
WALLY HERGER, CALIFORNIA
SAM JOHNSON, TEXAS
KEVIN BRADY, TEXAS
PAUL RYAN, WISCONSIN
ERIC CANTOR, VIRGINIA
JOHN LINDER, GEORGIA
DEVIN NUNES, CALIFORNIA
PATRICK J. TIBERI, OHIO
GINNY BROWN-WAITE, FLORIDA
GEOFF DAVIS, KENTUCKY
DAVID G. REICHERT, WASHINGTON
CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR., LOUISIANA
DEAN HELLER, NEVADA
PETER J. ROSKAM, ILLINOIS

JON TRAUB,
MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

June 10, 2009

The Honorable First Last
Member
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Last:

Each Member of the Committee on Ways and Means shares a few common bonds.

First, we all worked to get appointed to the Committee on Ways and Means because it plays a central role in so many critical policy debates. Its broad jurisdiction, including taxes, trade, health care, welfare, and Social Security, is testimony to the accumulated expertise of its Members in crafting solutions to some of the most important – and most difficult – policy challenges facing the nation.

Second, and perhaps more importantly, we each represent hundreds of thousands of families and businesses. While we may disagree on policy, all of us strive, every day, to make America a better place for parents to raise their children and for businesses to thrive and create good jobs for the future.

It is thus disappointing to believe that the Ways and Means Committee will opt against holding a mark-up of what is undoubtedly the most far-reaching and economy-changing proposal of this young century. It would be regrettable to see our great Committee reduced to an irrelevancy on this issue, and it would be a great disappointment for us to miss this opportunity to improve this measure on behalf of the families and businesses we have been elected to represent.

In light of reports last week that Speaker Pelosi has given the other Committees of jurisdiction on H.R. 2454 – all eight of them – until June 19th to complete their consideration of the bill and further public statements indicating that the Committee on Ways and Means was not going to conduct a mark-up by that deadline, last week we sent a letter to the Chairman asking, pursuant to Clause 2(c)(2) of Rule XI, that he schedule a mark-up on the bill.

That Rule permits a majority of the Committee to schedule such a special meeting if the Chairman fails to do so within three calendar days. Accordingly, we ask that you join us in signing the following letter to ensure the voices of our constituents are heard on this important measure.

This is, we recognize, a form of a discharge petition for a Committee. As each Democratic Member of the Committee who served in Congress before 2007 signed at least one discharge petition, we hope that you will continue to show the same commitment to ensuring that important legislation is given full consideration. Thus, we ask you to join us in signing the following letter, which will result in the scheduling of a mark-up on this important measure on Wednesday, June 17, 2009.

Our constituents, our nation, and the history and traditions of the great Committee on which we serve demand nothing less than our thoughtful input on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Dave Camp

Wally Henger

Kit Boyer

Siiny Brown-Waite

Di Zert

Paul Ryan

Patrick Toomey

Proxmire

Ch. Lamborn

Goff Davis

Don Hill

Sam Johnson

John Linder

Devin Nunes

Eric Cant