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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 24, 2009

The Honorable Barbara Boxer,
Chair, Senate Environment and Public Works Committee
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boxer:

As Congress continues to debate energy reform and climate change legislation, I write to express my strong support for including in your bill a separate title that encourages the use of clean, abundant natural gas both for the utility and other stationary sources that face emission restrictions and as a bridge fuel credit for the transportation sector.

I believe that Congress should take full advantage of our natural gas reserves, including those in my home state of Arkansas, by providing appropriate incentives to expand the usage of natural gas and thereby reduce America's carbon emissions in the near term. Recent technological breakthroughs in shale extraction have vastly expanded estimates of natural gas reserves, including the forecast of a 100 year supply of this clean fuel source. Increased natural gas usage would utilize a clean abundant domestic resource that is available today to the energy grid or used as an alternative fuel for heavy duty and fleet vehicles—while reducing our dependence on foreign oil, significantly reducing carbon emissions and creating desperately needed jobs. These are factors that are compelling to me as the Senate considers any climate and energy legislation.

Besides providing appropriate incentives for natural gas usage to improve our national security, I believe that climate legislation should also provide for research into Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) and appropriate CCS incentives for natural gas-fired plants in addition to coal-fired plants. In addition, I believe that future climate legislation should include natural gas use in any required National Academy of Science report to determine natural gas's potential for the reduction of greenhouse gases.

It is critical that Senate energy and climate legislation properly recognize the national security, environmental and job creation benefits of natural gas as we transition to a new, clean energy economy. Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations as you work towards introduction of climate change legislation.

Sincerely,



Blanche L. Lincoln
U.S. Senator