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## Senate Republicans unite to block Tuesday's climate bill markup

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Carrying out the threat issued last week by Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), Senate Republicans gave new meaning to the term "Boxer Rebellion" on Monday. All six ranking Republicans on the six Senate committees with jurisdiction over climate change legislation joined in demanding a more thorough EPA analysis of the Kerry-Boxer bill before they will allow Senate Environment & Public Works (EPW) Committee Chair Barbara Boxer (D-CA) to begin markup. Boxer announced last week that she planned to begin markup Tuesday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

What gives the Republicans leverage is the Senate quorum rule which would require at least two minority members to be present before Boxer could begin committee markup on legislation. In their Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to Boxer, the six ranking members state that "we are deeply troubled by the failure to accommodate a request from Senator Voinovich and other Republicans for a complete analysis of the bill's projected impacts on the nation." When they raised this point repeatedly in last week's EPW hearings on the climate bill, Boxer responded that the relatively brief EPA analysis of the bill was all that was needed since a more thorough analysis had been done of the largely similar Waxman-Markey bill which the House passed. In last week's hearing, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson explained that a more thorough analysis of the Kerry-Boxer bill could take five weeks.

The Republicans' letter stated that "a time of widespread unemployment, tenuous economic recovery, and record deficits" calls for "substantial deliberation." Boxer and other Democrats have responded that there has been very substantial deliberation over a period of years and that any further delay simply drives up the cost of dealing with the escalating impacts of climate change.

This latest GOP challenge to the "Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act," S.1733, is jointly supported by:

1. **Sen. Saxby Chambliss** (R-GA), ranking member of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee - "The Kerry-Boxer bill clearly needs more analysis. The current plan will have a devastating effect on our agriculture economy as our farmers and ranchers would face significantly higher energy and other input costs and could take millions of farmland acres out of production. We must have common sense in this debate and I urge my colleagues to carefully

account for and examine the impact of the bill, as we intend to do before the Senate Agriculture Committee.”

2. **Sen. Chuck Grassley** (R-IA), ranking member of the Senate Finance Committee - “We’ve seen what happens this year when Congress rushes ahead on complex legislation without complete data and a thorough vetting. It only makes sense to take a methodical approach to an issue as complicated and far-reaching as comprehensive climate and energy legislation.”
3. **Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison** (R-TX), ranking member of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee - “Last month, I released a comprehensive report that reveals how climate change legislation will increase the price of gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel for all Americans. The Democrats’ proposed climate change bills fail to reduce the impact of these massive costs and instead strap American families and businesses with a massive \$3.6 trillion gas tax bill at a time when they can least afford it. We can improve the environment and economy through American ingenuity and technological advancement, not with taxes and mandates that cause more pain and hardship for Americans.”
4. **Sen. James Inhofe** (R-OK) ranking member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, - “I welcome the support from all the ranking members of committees with jurisdiction over climate change. As they made clear, you can’t properly consider a 1,000-page bill to restructure the entire American economy without a full economic analysis of its costs on jobs, consumers, families, and small businesses.”
5. **Sen. Richard Lugar** (R-IN) ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.
6. **Sen. Lisa Murkowski** (R-AK) ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee - “Unprecedented shifts in our nation’s approach to energy and the environment are being considered. Global climate change needs to be addressed, but I’m committed to making sure that such efforts also protect America’s economy and competitiveness. We need to have a complete and substantive analysis of any bill that attempts to address this issue.”

One explanation for the Republican show of force Monday was that a prominent Republican, retired Senator John Warner, testified in the EPW hearings last week in strong support of the Kerry-Boxer bill. He called on Senators to support the legislation, citing urgent national security, energy and environmental reasons for passage.

To read a copy of the letter sent to Senator Boxer from the six ranking Republicans, go to: <http://www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/20091102H.pdf>

For copies of the written testimony from the 53 witnesses in last week’s three Senate climate-bill hearings Oct. 27, 28 and 29, as well as webcasts of three hearings, go to: <http://epw.senate.gov>. For more *Agri-Pulse* coverage of the three days, go to:

<http://www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/20091029H2.pdf>

<http://www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/20091029H1.pdf>,

<http://www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/20091028H1.pdf>, &

<http://www.agri-pulse.com/uploaded/20091027H1.pdf>