

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

SUITE 2320 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301  
(202) 225-6371  
TTY: (202) 226-4410  
<http://www.house.gov/science/welcome.htm>

October 4, 2005

The Honorable Samuel Bodman  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This month you launched the President's public awareness campaign focused on energy conservation in the consumer, industry and government sectors. There is plenty of good advice in that campaign. But there are already energy efficiency obligations the Federal agencies must meet, specifically the energy efficiency goals laid out in Executive Order 13123. Are the agencies meeting those goals? We can only know how the agencies are progressing in meeting these goals if we get the Annual Reports to Congress in a timely manner. The data from Federal Agencies for Fiscal Year 2004 came to your Department 10 months ago. Ten months is more than enough time for your Department to complete its report on energy efficiency in Federal agencies. I ask you to release the report for Fiscal Year 2004 by October 17, 2005, or set a date certain for its release. The American public deserves to know how the Federal Government has been doing in meeting efficiency goals set long before today's energy crisis erupted.

As the world's single largest energy consumer, the U.S. Federal Government has the capacity to save an enormous amount of energy through relatively small reductions in overall use. The 1999 Clinton Executive Order 13123 – *Greening the Government Through Efficient Energy Management* laid out reasonable goals in energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, and emissions reductions at the Federal agencies. President Bush subsequently reinforced the Executive Order and, to my knowledge, it has since served as the definitive guidance document for Federal energy management programs.

The *Annual Reports to Congress on Federal Government Energy Management and Conservation Programs* let us know how the agencies are doing in meeting these goals. We received the Fiscal Year 2003 report in August 2005. While it is helpful to know how the Federal Government executed energy management measures two years

October 4, 2005  
Page 2

ago, more current information would certainly be useful. Since the report for FY 1999, it has taken the Department two years on average to release these reports. This kind of inefficiency in reporting on energy efficiency is simply unacceptable. I know that you share my belief that energy efficiency in the Federal Government is a priority.

If one year is not enough time for these reports to be drafted and discharged please write to me explaining why and set firm dates for their release. To further discuss this matter, please contact Chris King on my staff at (202) 225-7255 or [Christopher.King@mail.house.gov](mailto:Christopher.King@mail.house.gov) .

Given the urgency of the nation's energy needs, the President's recent call for energy conservation, and your own deployment of energy experts to Federal facilities, it only makes sense that the public should see what the Federal Government is doing to curb its own energy appetite. We can't tell them if we don't know. Releasing the 2004 data is a good first step.

Sincerely,



BART GORDON  
Ranking Member