

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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August 25, 2008

Dr. Ralph J. Cicerone  
President  
National Academy of Sciences  
2101 Constitution Avenue  
Washington, DC 20418

Dear Dr. Cicerone:

We are writing to express our support for the National Research Council's initiative to develop a comprehensive and objective analysis of the nation's energy technology options. The Committee on Science and Technology is committed to promoting research and development for a prosperous and sustainable energy future. Our nation's capacity for innovation coupled with our utilization of energy resources has afforded us the quality of life we enjoy today. However, rapidly increasing global energy demand now presents a serious threat to our geopolitical, economic, and environmental health, and poses perhaps the greatest technological and public policy challenge of our time. In light of this, the Academies' efforts to provide a technical baseline for addressing these concerns could not be more relevant or timely.

While the market will be the ultimate arbiter of most energy technology choices, market conditions are influenced significantly by government policies. As policy makers we need reliable and concise assessments of the costs, opportunities, and risks inherent in the various energy technology pathways. Unfortunately, we encounter a wide array of studies that often present conflicting and confusing information, and create unrealistic expectations for specific technologies. Effectively balancing our national interests requires an authoritative, comprehensive, and unbiased analysis of our technology options. The Academies' unique ability to assemble the nation's most respected scientific, business, and technical experts should result in a credible technology baseline for developing new policies that begin to address the scale and complexity of our energy challenge.

Recognizing the crucial role of innovation in the maintenance of U.S. global competitiveness we asked the Academies to examine the current status of our innovation

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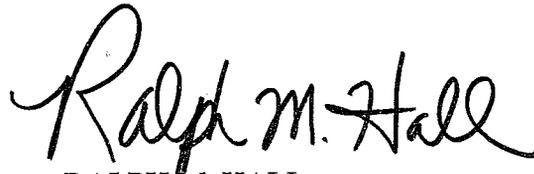
infrastructure and to provide recommendations for strengthening it. This led to the seminal report "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" in 2006. This report served as the foundation for congressional action, and several recommendations from the report were incorporated into the America COMPETES Act. Now, with the Summit on America's Energy Future serving as a springboard for this ambitious project, we are confident that your efforts will result in a series of reports as authoritative and comprehensive as "Gathering Storm." In turn, the Science & Technology Committee will give your work and recommendations the same consideration.

True energy security is only possible with a flexible and diverse socioeconomic system that utilizes the full range of clean energy resources and technologies. We are confident that your analysis of our energy technology options will contribute to sound energy policies that stand the test of time, and we look forward to your conclusions.

Sincerely,



BART GORDON  
Chairman



RALPH M. HALL  
Ranking Member