



washington dc update

Congressman Fred Upton Named As Chair of House Energy and Commerce Committee

December 8, 2010

A Meaningful Quote

"The Obama administration is on notice - they will not be allowed to regulate what they have been unable to legislate."

[Fred Upton](#) (MI), named Chair, Energy and Commerce Committee, 112th Congress.

Congressman Fred Upton of Michigan has been named to chair the House Energy and Commerce Committee in the 112th Congress. This is the Committee that has jurisdiction ranging from EPA, to energy, to health care.

Since many WESTCAS members may not be familiar with Congressman Upton, in brief, he represents the southwestern corner of Michigan in the 6th Congressional District. He was first elected to Congress in 1986 and before that he worked for the Office of Management and Budget during the Reagan Administration.

Mr. Upton has been considered to be moderate in many of his positions on environment and energy issues but he is taking a strong line with regard to many Obama Administration policies and has promised hearings on a number of issues.

We have attached for your review the statement that Mr. Upton issued upon his election as the new Energy and Commerce Chair. One statement in particular caught our attention: "The Obama Administration is on notice—they will not be allowed to regulate what they have been unable to legislate."

We have often commented on the impact on both the Obama Administration and the Congress with regard to the fact that most of the Obama environmental legislative agenda has languished in the 111th Congress and has even less of a chance of being enacted in the 112th. Many believe that the Administration will increasingly resort to Executive Orders issued by the EPA and the CEQ over the next two years. Chairman Upton has signaled that his Committee will take exception to this policy, although one must remember that Republicans control only the House and not the Senate or the White House.

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