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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

November 5, 1975

Honorable Jack Brooks
Chairman
Committee on Government Operations
House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It is our understanding that your Committee's Conservation, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee has scheduled hearings on Wednesday and Thursday, November 5 and 6, concerning the natural gas shortage projected for this winter, the curtailments of natural gas deliveries in light of such projections, the preparedness of the federal agencies to deal with and alleviate such shortages and curtailments, and what those agencies, industries and consumers should do about them.

Rule X(1) of the Rules of the House of Representatives vests in our Committee jurisdiction over "(1) interstate and foreign commerce generally" and "(3) ...petroleum and natural gas...." Pursuant to that jurisdiction, two Subcommittees of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee have for many months been investigating, studying, and engaging in legislative consideration of the subjects mentioned above.

The Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee (chaired by John E. Moss) began investigating those matters almost

Honorable Jack Brooks
November 5, 1975
Page Two

immediately after it was organized. It held hearings on them on June 9, 13, 26, and 27, July 14 and 21, and September 4 and 5. Two reports concerning deliverability of natural gas production and declining deliverability of natural gas supplies have already been issued, and the Subcommittee's investigations on the natural gas shortage are continuing.

The Energy and Power Subcommittee (chaired by John D. Dingell) has been pursuing the legislative aspects of those subjects, including study, investigation, and analysis of over 60 bills now pending before it. It held hearings on October 24 on the Federal Power Commission's failure to enforce legal requirements, which, had they been enforced, would have substantially or entirely eliminated the threat of the natural gas shortage emergency this coming winter.

The House Administration Committee's regulations, which govern the expenditure of funds for investigation, studies, oversight, and other functions of all standing committees of the House, provides in Rule 2.A.6. as follows:

"(6) No part of the funds authorized for studies and investigations to be conducted by any standing or select committee of the House shall be available for expenditures in connection with the study or investigation of any subject which is being investigated for the same purpose by any other committee of the House. The chairman of any committee contemplating such study or investigation shall furnish the Committee on House Administration information with respect to the study or investigation intended to be financed from that committee's investigating funds."

We believe that the current studies and the November 5 and 6 hearings scheduled by the Conservation, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee are inconsistent with the letter and spirit of that regulation.

Honorable Jack Brooks
November 5, 1975
Page Three

We respectfully submit that the subject matter of those studies and hearings is fully comprehended within the studies and investigations which our two Subcommittees have been pursuing for many months, and accordingly that these matters should be left to our two Subcommittees.

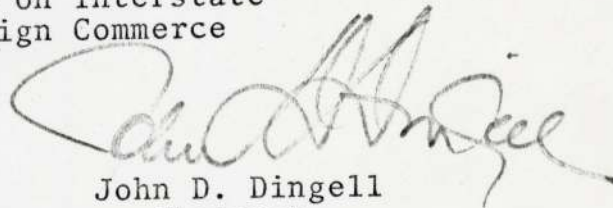
Sincerely,


Harley O. Stagg
Chairman

Committee on Interstate
and Foreign Commerce



John E. Moss
Chairman
Oversight and
Investigations Subcommittee



John D. Dingell
Chairman
Energy and Power
Subcommittee

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W. E. WILLIAMSON, CLERK

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce
Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

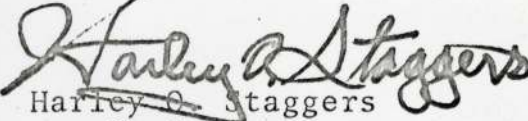
November 5, 1975

Honorable William S. Moorhead
Chairman
Subcommittee on Conservation,
Energy, and Natural Resources
Committee on Government Operations
B371 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20515

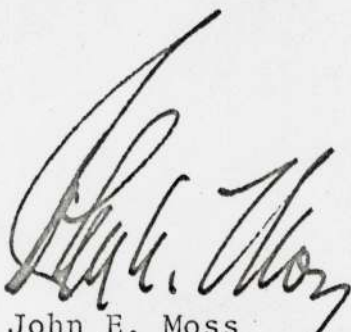
Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of our letter which we have today sent to Chairman Jack Brooks of the House Government Operations Committee. Our letter states our belief that the studies and investigations now being conducted and the hearings which have been scheduled by your Subcommittee concerning the natural gas shortage are inconsistent with Section 2.A.6. of the House Administration Committee's regulations, in view of the fact that two Subcommittees of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee have been conducting such studies and investigations for many months.

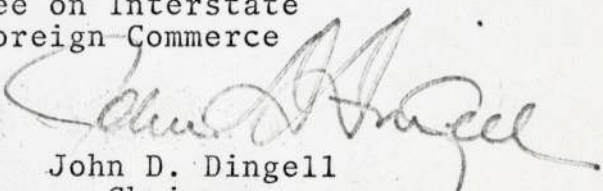
Sincerely,


Harley O. Stagers
Chairman

Committee on Interstate
and Foreign Commerce


John E. Moss
Chairman

Oversight and
Investigations Subcommittee


John D. Dingell
Chairman
Energy and Power
Subcommittee

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce
Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building
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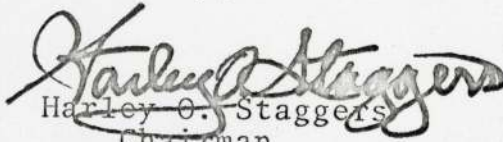
November 5, 1975

Honorable Wayne L. Hays
Chairman
Committee on House Administration
House of Representatives
H-326 Capitol
Washington, D. C. 20515

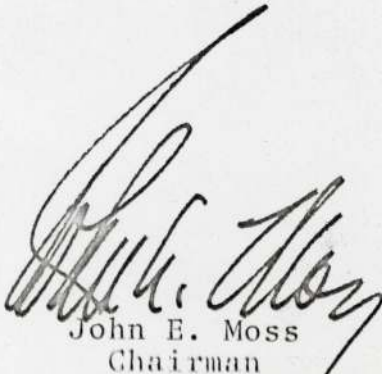
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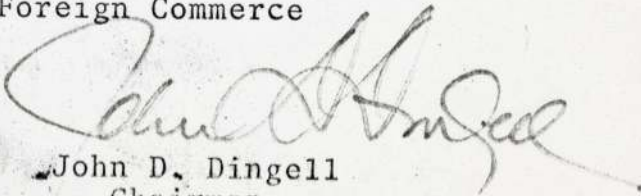
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