

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 12, 2009

The Honorable Kent Conrad
Chairman
Committee on Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Judd Gregg
Ranking Member
Committee on Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Conrad and Ranking Member Gregg:

We oppose using the budget reconciliation process to expedite passage of climate legislation.

Enactment of a cap-and-trade regime is likely to influence nearly every feature of the U.S. economy. Legislation so far-reaching should be fully vetted and given appropriate time for debate, something the budget reconciliation process does not allow. Using this procedure would circumvent normal Senate practice and would be inconsistent with the Administration's stated goals of bipartisanship, cooperation, and openness.

We commend you for holding the recent hearing, entitled "Procedures for Consideration of the Budget Resolution/Reconciliation," which discussed important recommendations for the upcoming budget debate. Maintaining integrity in the budget process is critical to safeguarding the fiscal health of the United States in these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Mitch Johnson



Daniel Vitter



George V. Voinovich



Jim Cooper



Jeff Bond



Lamar Alexander



Lamar Alexander



Robert Byrd



Blanche L. Lincoln



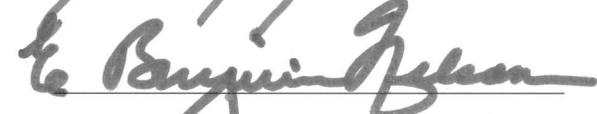
Paul Sen



Eric Bayh



Mary Gandy



Benjamin Nelson



Bob Casey, Jr.

Michael B. Eiji

Tom A. Cole

John Barrasso

Roussell

Chuck Grassley

Mike Crapo

Paul Cook

Mark Royce

Pat Roberts

Sam Brownback

John McCain

Jim Bunning

John Eriqson

Tom McClintock

Royce Wicker

Lynn M. Collins

Kay Bailey Hutchison

Lee Pendergrass

Sayby Claiborne