



## AMERICANS FOR LIMITED GOVERNMENT

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November 10, 2010

Dear Representatives Elect:

Believe it or not, there is already a battle over what the November 2 election meant. The decision on whether Michigan Congressman Fred Upton becomes the new Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee is a defining early moment for this new Republican House of Representatives.

This kind of decision is normally inside baseball made between leadership offices and the respective committees, but we are taking the highly unusual step of urging you to take action because this decision affects everything from repealing Obamacare to cap and trade legislation. Quite simply, Fred Upton should NOT be elevated to the Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee. I ask that you read the three clips below and I'm sure you will agree.

From the *Wall Street Journal*, writing about the effort to pass the \$838.2 billion stimulus package through the House of Representatives in early 2009 credits Upton with working to find ways to bring Republicans "on board" with this disastrous legislation.

*"Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, a former Republican House member, said in an interview that he is meeting with his former colleagues to stress that the package represents jobs in their districts, "a lot of jobs." He and White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel have teamed up with Rep. Fred Upton of Michigan, a Republican moderate, to find ways to bring Republicans on board."*<sup>1</sup>

The *Kalamazoo Gazette* reported in December 18, 2008, that, "In fact, he [Upton] sounds enthusiastic about the prospect of an Obama presidency that promotes bipartisanship." The same article goes on to report that Upton immediately sent Rahm Emanuel a congratulatory message on his appointment as Obama Chief of Staff with Emanuel responding according to Upton, "You're the guy we're going to be looking to" to help build coalitions with Republicans.<sup>2</sup>

*Newsweek* quoted Upton claiming that his regular dinners with Rahm Emanuel paid off in support for legislation like the banking bailout.<sup>3</sup>

Fred Upton's voting record on key issues (attached) demonstrates his destructive support for the bailouts, the stimulus, and job crippling green legislation that sends American jobs overseas. This combined with his

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<sup>1</sup> Wall Street Journal, "Senate OKs \$838.2B Economic Recovery Bill," Greg Hitt and Jon Weisman, Feb 10, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Kalamazoo Gazette, "Upton upbeat about role in Congress," Julie Mack, December 18, 2008.

<sup>3</sup> Newsweek, "Rahm Emanuel; Obama means to control Washington. His chief of staff will be at the wheel," Howard Fineman, January 5, 2009.

opposition to repealing Obamacare<sup>4</sup> make him particularly unsuitable to Chair the one committee with primary jurisdiction over many of the most important issues facing our nation.

As a newly elected member of Congress, you have a unique opportunity to let Republican leadership know that you want an Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman who agrees with the basic limited government ideas that brought about the greatest Republican victory in the House of Representatives since 1894.

Let Republican leadership know that you are concerned about putting control over this committee that sits at the heart of the 2010 electoral revolution into the hands of someone whose vision is more in line with Rahm Emanuel and President Obama on so many critical issues than with that of the American people.

The entire direction of the next two years is being set during these organizing meetings, and Americans for Limited Government strongly encourages you to not allow this historic opportunity to get lost before you are even sworn in.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William A. Wilson".

William A. "Bill" Wilson  
President  
Americans for Limited Government

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<sup>4</sup> Kalamazoo Gazette, "Health-care overhaul hurting businesses: But congressman Fred Upton says he doesn't support repeal, wants fixes", Alex Nixon, March 31, 2010.