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Senator Marco Rubio
8669 NW 36th Street, Suite 110
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Dear Senator Rubio,

In his speech on climate policy at Georgetown University earlier this week, President Obama made it clear that he intended to take many unilateral steps within his administration—particularly through the Department of Energy, the Department of the Interior, and especially the Environmental Protection Agency—to combat climate change, steps Congress has refused to take despite its considering bills for cap-and-trade and other measures repeatedly. Whatever one might think of the merits of the President's policies, they represent a breathtaking expansion of Executive branch power at the expense of Congressional power. Such an expansion of Executive power may seem attractive when the President is of one's own Party, but when, as eventually happens in American history, a President of the other Party takes office, it can turn about with a vengeance.

That is why I'm writing to ask you to take a stand for the preservation of the balance of powers our nation's founders wove into its Constitution. I would urge you to cooperate with other Members of Congress to craft legislation that will block the Administration's attempt to substitute Executive Orders on climate policy for bills debated and passed by Congress and signed by the President—the path of truly democratic governance. Even if Congress adopts policies identical to those the President intends to impose by Executive fiat, it will have acted to preserve the delicate and important Constitutional balance of powers and to take the path that best ensures government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

I write this not

- because I disagree with the President on the magnitude of anthropogenic climate change, or
- because I think reducing U.S. carbon dioxide emissions would be futile as a means of preventing climate change (although under the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's own assumptions—that it takes about 1.8 quadrillion metric tons of carbon dioxide to raise global temperature 1°C—the 9.4 billion ton reduction in U.S. emissions the President's plan targets would avert at most an undetectable 0.0053°C of warming), or even
- because implementing the President's policies would harm America's poor by raising energy (and consequently all) prices (while the poor spend in proportion almost twice as much of their incomes on energy as the middle class—making this analogous to a regressive tax),

but solely because of my concern for defending the authority of Congress under the Constitution. I trust that you as a Member share that concern.

Sincerely,

E. Calvin Beisner, Ph.D.