

ROBERT MENENDEZ  
NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN  
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FOREIGN RELATIONS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3005

317 SENATE HART OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4744

ONE GATEWAY CENTER  
11TH FLOOR  
NEWARK, NJ 07102  
(973) 645-3030

208 WHITE HORSE PIKE  
SUITE 18-19  
BARRINGTON, NJ 08007  
(856) 757-5353

September 15, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Dear Mr. President:

As members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we strongly object to the proposed appointment of F. Chase Hutto III as Assistant Secretary of Energy for Policy and International Affairs, or in any other capacity at the Department of Energy (DOE). As a senior aide to Vice President Cheney, he has, according to numerous reports, fought efforts to provide greater protection for the public health and environment. Mr. Hutto is simply an unacceptable candidate to lead the Department of Energy's international energy initiatives.

According to the DOE, the Assistant Secretary is the "primary advisor to the Secretary and the Department on energy and technology policy development" in an office that delivers "unbiased advice" based on "well-founded data and analysis" to the DOE leadership on energy policy. At this particularly important point in time, we need someone as Assistant Secretary of Energy for Policy and International Affairs who can provide the leadership needed to propel sustainable energy policies, both here and abroad, that are based on the scientific consensus surrounding the imperative to act quickly to address global warming. Mr. Hutto, however, has an unfortunate history of opposing science-based environmental and public health regulations, thus making him unsuitable for this position.

While we could provide innumerable examples of his opposition to forward-thinking energy policies, but let us briefly mention two of the most egregious ones. According to a report by the United States House of Representatives' Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, Mr. Hutto acted as a voice for oil industry representatives (including those from the American Petroleum Institute and ExxonMobil) during internal White House deliberations in arguing against action following the *Massachusetts v. EPA* decision. In another example that shows his lack of regard for science to inform policy, in 2005, Mr. Hutto questioned the need for EPA to limit power plant emissions of mercury. There is substantial evidence demonstrating that mercury pollution from power plants is a major threat to human health, particularly pregnant women and young children.

We have no reason to believe that, as Assistance Secretary, Mr. Hutto would act any differently than he has while working for the Vice President. This means that while the

American people are looking for leadership on renewable energy and global warming, they would instead get someone committed to partisan politics and more of the status quo failed energy policies. Appointing Mr. Hutto to any acting capacity would be a mistake and we sincerely hope that at the end of your Presidency you will avoid any such blatantly-confrontational actions.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



ROBERT MENENDEZ  
United States Senator



BERNARD SANDERS  
United States Senator