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## **CLIMATE: Global warming skeptic may have misled committee about industry backing -- Waxman**

Jean Chemnick, E&E reporter

House Energy and Commerce's top Democrat Henry Waxman of California today said a past committee witness who is skeptical of climate science may have misled Congress on the extent of his ties to smokestack industries affected by carbon dioxide regulations.

Waxman wrote a letter to Energy and Commerce Chairman Fred Upton (R-Mich.) asking for "clarification" of the financial backing that Cato Institute fellow Patrick Michaels received from the energy sector and alleging that Michaels underreported that income in documents presented to the committee two years ago.

Michaels was a Republican invitee at a hearing held in February 2009, titled "The Climate Crisis: National Security, Economic, and Public Health Threats."

In his written testimony, Michaels said international climate science could not support the idea that climate change constitutes an immediate threat and threw doubt on models used by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

"I must report that our models are in the process of failing," he told the committee, then chaired by Waxman. "If it is demonstrable that these models have failed, then there is no real scientific basis for any estimates of the costs of inaction."

Waxman's letter said Michaels' curriculum vitae presented to the committee before the hearing showed that he derived 3 percent of his income from speaking engagements and other work performed for energy companies.

"Information publicly available at the time of Dr. Michaels's testimony suggested that Dr. Michaels did significant work for and received substantial financial support from energy producers and transmitters, even though that work and support did not appear in the materials he submitted to the Committee," Waxman wrote.

Waxman said that Rep. Peter Welch (D-Vt.) questioned Michaels on apparent discrepancies in his CV following the hearing and was not provided with detailed answers.

The Cato Institute, a Washington-based libertarian think tank, did not return calls for comment.

Waxman cited a report earlier this month in the Washington-based paper Politico in which Michaels was quoted as saying that 40 percent of his "funding" comes from the petroleum industry.

"It is difficult to reconcile what Dr. Michaels reported to the committee on his CV with the estimate of his industry funding reported by Politico," said Waxman. "If the Politico story is accurate, far more than the 3% of Dr. Michaels's funding reported to the Committee comes from industry sources."