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The Honorable Rep Tom Perriello
1520 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Perriello:

I am Carolyn Heighty and represent the Jefferson Area Board on Aging (JABA). My organization serves seniors in your district. JABA is a place for older adults to gather in an atmosphere that promotes and utilizes life experiences and skills. The center's goal is to provide an environment that validates the changing needs and interests of the individuals and enhance growth, dignity and connection with each other and the greater community.

It has come to my attention you are about to vote on important environmental legislation (the Waxman-Markey bill). I support making the environment cleaner, but the reason I am writing is that I am concerned about the possible increase to seniors on their monthly electric bill. Many of our seniors, as you know, are on low fixed incomes. The cost to heat and cool their homes, run hot water and use other appliances is very important to those seniors on a budget.

Virginia receives 56% of its electricity from coal. I urge you to pass legislation that reduces greenhouse gases but at the same time protects seniors and consumers from unaffordable increases in the basic necessity of electricity.

I ask you to use your very important position to help protect seniors and other consumers in Virginia's 5th Congressional district from higher electricity bills. Please don't vote to force cost increases on seniors and consumers especially in this shaky and unsteady economy. We urge you to make pro-consumer changes in the Waxman-Markey bill to protect seniors and all of your constituents of your district from unaffordable energy cost increases.

Respectfully,
Carolyn Heighty

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