

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Steve King today reacted to efforts by Rep. Edward Markey (D-MA) to intimidate an energy company CEO who testified before a House Subcommittee this week.

David Sokol, chairman of MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co., testified before the Energy and Environment Subcommittee about the negative impact of “cap and trade” legislation on Tuesday. Sokol’s testimony was devastating to the effort to pass the liberal Waxman/Markey “cap and tax” bill. According to The Hill newspaper, Rep. Markey wrote a letter “to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Jon Wellinghoff asking FERC to investigate the actions of a major energy company on the same day that the company’s CEO was set to testify before the energy panel on the dangers of a carbon cap and trade system.”

“This is the clearest form of witness intimidation I have seen during my time in Congress,” King said. “Liberals are now resorting to witness intimidation tactics to pass their job-killing, ‘cap and tax’ plan. American families should be outraged with methods liberals are willing to use to pass their massive new energy tax. This is unacceptable, deplorable and the latest in a series of bullying tactics employed by the White House and liberals in this Pelosi Congress.”

Background:

GOP charges Markey with climate witness intimidation

By Jared Allen

Posted: 06/11/09 08:17 PM [ET]

Energy panel Republicans are levying accusations of witness intimidation against Democratic Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), one of the key authors of the

contentious House climate change bill.

Republicans have seized on a letter – a copy of which was obtained by The Hill – that Markey penned to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Jon Wellinghoff asking FERC to investigate the actions of a major energy company on the same day that the company's CEO was set to testify before the energy panel on the dangers of a carbon cap and trade system

According to the June 9 letter, Markey requested that Wellinghoff probe how thoroughly MidAmerican Energy Holdings – a \$41 billion company in which Warren Buffet is a major investor – followed up on promises to invest as much as \$15 billion in electric transmission expansion in the wake of the repeal of the Public Utility Holding Company Act in 2005.

In fact, Markey singled out MidAmerican Energy to also ask FERC to look into his concerns “that the repeal of PUHCA has also freed large multi-state public utility companies to diversify into other potentially risky business, to the potential detriment of utility investors and consumers.”

“For example, MidAmerican Holdings has acquired the second largest real estate brokerage company in the country,” Markey wrote in his six-page letter. “What protections have been put in place to prevent utility shareholders, such as those of MidAmerican Holdings' regulated utilities, to prevent them from rate increases, higher costs for borrowing, or other risks with might be associated with unsuccessful or failed diversifications?”

<http://thehill.com/leading-the-news/gop-charges-markey-with-climate-witness-intimidation-2009-06-11.html>