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## NEWS ALERT

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### 1. ENERGY AND COMMERCE: Upton wins race for the gavel (12/07/2010 at 06:06 PM)

#### Katie Howell, E&E News

Republican leaders have chosen Rep. Fred Upton to be the next chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

The Michigan Republican today beat out current ranking member Joe Barton of Texas and Reps. Cliff Stearns of Florida and John Shimkus of Illinois for the post.

"I look forward to standing shoulder to shoulder with Speaker Boehner, Leader Cantor, Whip McCarthy and the entire Republican Conference as we repeal Obamacare, fight rampant job-killing regulations, cut spending and help put folks back to work," Upton said in a statement.

Upton's selection brings an end to a weeks-long bitter debate over the chairmanship. Upton, who has long been considered the favorite for the gavel, has spent much of his campaign time playing up his conservative credentials against attacks from more right-leaning members of his party.

The Republican Steering Committee's decision tonight must now be ratified by the full Republican caucus, a vote that is expected to occur tomorrow morning.

At least one of Upton's opponents has voiced his support for the decision. "I fully support Chairman-elect Upton and look forward to assisting him as our committee has a lot of work ahead of us in the 112th Congress," Shimkus said in a statement.

Barton congratulated Upton but was more reserved in his support for the Steering Committee's decision. "I'm going to do everything I know how to make his chairmanship the kind of success that the American people want and expect," Barton said in a statement.

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