



Governors'
**Wind
Energy**
Coalition

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March 16, 2010

Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate Building
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable John Boehner
Republican Leader
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Senator McConnell, and Representative Boehner:

We write today to share with you *Great Expectations: U.S. Wind Energy Development*, our recommendations to simultaneously and cost-effectively address some of the nation's most pressing needs — jobs, energy, national security, and climate — through the use of domestic renewable energy resources.

As a bipartisan group of 29 governors from diverse regions of the nation, we share a common concern that our dependence on imported energy sources poses unacceptable and unnecessary risks to the nation's energy, economic and national security. We offer our assistance in working with Congress and the Administration to achieve one of the nation's principal energy goals, energy independence, and increasing the role that wind energy plays in meeting that challenge.

Although Congress began to address this goal last year when the House of Representatives passed the *American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009* (H.R. 2454), additional important policy work remains as the Senate considers its version of this legislation. H.R. 2454 addresses several of the recommendations that follow, especially with respect to the passage of a renewable electricity standard. It is our hope that these recommendations, summarized below and discussed more fully in the enclosed document, will aid the Senate in its deliberations.

- *Adopt a Renewable Electricity Standard.*
- *Develop New Interstate Electric Transmission System Infrastructure as Needed That Provides Access to Premier Renewable Energy Resources both On-Shore and Offshore.*
- *Fully Support Coastal, Deep Water, and Offshore Wind Energy Technology, Transmission Research and Development.*
- *Streamline Permitting Processes for Both Offshore and On-Shore Wind Energy Development Projects.*
- *Expand the U.S. Department of Energy's Work with Our States and the Wind Industry to Accelerate Innovation.*

- *Extend the Treasury Department Grant Program in Lieu of the Investment Tax Credit and Adopt a Long-Term Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit With Provisions to Broaden the Pool of Eligible Investors.*

The Governors' Wind Energy Coalition stands ready to work with you on the adoption and implementation of these and other initiatives. We know that by working together we can successfully address this challenge.

Sincerely,



Chester J. Culver, Chair
and Governor of Iowa



Donald L. Carcieri, Vice Chair
and Governor of Rhode Island

Enclosure: *Great Expectations: U.S. Wind Energy Development*, Governors' 2010
Recommendations to the President and Congress (March 2010)

c.

Hon. Jeff Bingaman, Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Hon. Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Members, Energy & Natural Resources Committee
Hon. John Boehner, House Minority Leader
Hon. Henry Waxman, Chairman, House Committee on Energy & Commerce
Hon. Joe Barton, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy & Commerce
Members, House Committee on Energy & Commerce