



Governors'
**Wind
Energy**
Coalition

2200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 102-22
Arlington, Virginia 22201-3324
Phone 402 651-2948
www.GovernorsWindEnergyCoalition.org

February 18, 2009

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The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write today to begin a partnership with your Administration to address some of the nation's most pressing needs — jobs, energy, and climate — through the use of domestic renewable energy resources.

As a bipartisan group of 23 governors from diverse regions of the nation, we share a common concern that our dependence on imported energy sources too greatly risks the nation's energy and economic security. We offer our assistance in working with your Administration to achieve one of the principal goals identified during the campaign — energy independence and increasing the role that wind energy plays in meeting this challenge.

Wind energy is a clean, abundant, and affordable source of energy. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, with the right policies and investments, the United States can generate 20 percent of our electricity demand through wind and other renewable sources by 2030. Working toward this goal would spur new investments that can help stabilize our states' and nation's economies, reduce consumer energy costs, reduce dependence on foreign oil, lessen carbon emissions, and create thousands of good jobs.

There are a number of policy options that your new Administration and Congress should consider, including:

- ***Adoption of a National Renewable Electricity Standard.*** We recommend the adoption of a national renewable electricity standard requiring utilities to provide a minimum of 20 percent of their electricity from renewable sources such as wind and solar. The certainty and stability provided through a national standard would reduce overall costs of wind development for the nation's electricity consumers.
- ***Support for the construction of New Interstate Electric Transmission Capacity.*** The nation cannot be expected to fully develop our rich domestic wind resources without major improvements to the electric transmission system. National policy is needed to provide incentives for transmission developers and states to collaborate in the siting and construction of a modern transmission system. Implementation of this policy will also substantially increase the overall reliability of the nation's power system, reducing electricity costs to consumers.

- ***Expansion of the U.S. Department of Energy's Work with States and the Wind Industry to Accelerate Innovation.*** Wind power technology is one of the best economic development opportunities for our states. Production of wind energy components and systems can help revitalize the manufacturing sector, and will provide substantial benefits to the nation's economy through domestic and export markets. As governors, we look forward to expanded partnerships with the federal government and key stakeholders in order to maintain the U.S. wind industry's relative competitive advantage.
- ***Adoption of a Long-Term Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit.*** This credit is currently the primary federal incentive for wind energy development and should be extended to provide a stable incentive for wind energy investment. The recent history of short-term extensions of the credit should be avoided in order to provide more certainty to wind developers and manufacturers in the United States.

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

Sincerely,



Chet Culver, Co-Chair
Governor of Iowa



Tim Pawlenty, Co-Chair
Governor of Minnesota

c.

Member Governors

Hon. Harry Reid, Majority Leader

Hon. Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader

Hon. Jeff Bingaman, Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee

Hon. Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Energy & Natural Resources Committee

Members, Energy & Natural Resources Committee

Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker

Hon. Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader

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