

October 30, 2007

Senator Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Bill Ritter
State of Colorado

Representative Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Reid and Speaker Pelosi:

Bill Richardson
State of New Mexico

We applaud your dedication to crafting comprehensive energy legislation this year. The versions passed by the Senate and the House contain critical measures to increase our energy independence, promote renewable energy sources, increase efficiency, and protect natural resources.

Ted Kulongoski
State of Oregon

If enacted, these policies would be a positive first step forward. While they do not include the complete range of critical energy and climate issues we support, we appreciate your leadership and encourage you to continue to press forward in those areas expeditiously.

Christine Gregoire
State of Washington

Our states are leaders in actions to drive clean and diversified energy investments, and we are encouraged by your efforts at the federal level. We are writing to urge you to incorporate the best provisions of both bills into a final energy bill this year.

Specifically, we urge you to include at least the following provisions in the final legislation. Individual Governors may have additional recommendations.

- **A Strong Renewable Electricity Portfolio Standard.** The House bill included a renewable electricity standard (RES) that would require utilities to produce 15% of their electricity from renewables by 2020. Our states have adopted similar standards that have increased production of clean, renewable energy from sources like wind, solar, biomass, and geothermal while creating clean energy jobs. We encourage you to adopt a national RES that does not limit a respective state's ability to develop the most advantageous mix of clean energy resources and does not exempt compliance with a state standard.
- **Increased Vehicle Fuel Economy Standards.** The Senate bill raises the average fleet-wide standard to 35 miles per gallon (mpg) by 2020, while providing auto manufacturers with greater compliance flexibility under a system with different mileage requirements according to vehicle size. Increasing fuel economy standards is critical for reducing our dependence on foreign oil, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and saving consumers money.

- **An extension of the Renewable Energy Production Tax Credit and the Solar Investment Tax Credit.** The renewable energy production tax credit should be extended at least through 2013, and the solar investment tax credit through 2016, to provide a more certain investment environment for renewable energy. Extending these tax credits in two-year increments, as has been done in the past, is inadequate for stimulating long-term investments in renewable energy.
- **Energy Efficiency Incentives and Standards.** The House and Senate included a number of critical energy efficiency measures that save consumers money, help address climate change, and reduce the need for building new fossil fuel electricity generation. This includes important new energy efficiency standards for light bulbs, dishwashers, and clothes washers, and potential improvements in building codes. We also encourage you to include tax incentives that the Senate considered for efficient commercial and residential buildings and manufacturers of energy efficient appliances in the final bill.

In addition to these essential provisions for our energy future, there are several other elements under consideration that would benefit our citizens, including:

- **Secure rural schools reauthorization.** The Senate bill included a provision reauthorizing the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. We support reauthorization to provide important funding for rural communities.
- **Landowner protections.** Many landowners in the Western states live on “split estates” where landowners do not own the mineral rights beneath their surface property. The House-passed energy bill would bring federal law closer to laws passed in New Mexico and Colorado, requiring mineral, oil, and gas extraction companies to secure a surface use agreement with the landowner, and provide special permit conditions and a bond that protects surface owners’ interests.

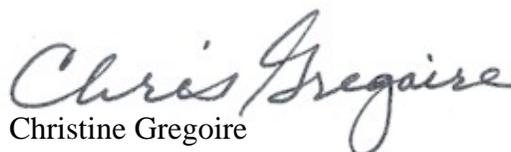
Thank you again for your dedication and leadership in finalizing an energy bill this year.

Sincerely,


 Bill Ritter, Jr.
 Governor of Colorado


 Bill Richardson
 Governor of New Mexico


 Ted Kulongoski
 Governor of Oregon


 Christine Gregoire
 Governor of Washington

cc: Members of Congress