

American Bird Conservancy * American Rivers * Clean Water Action * Earthjustice * Environmental Law & Policy Center * Friends of the Earth * Friends Committee on National Legislation * Greenpeace * League of Conservation Voters * National Audubon Society * National Environmental Trust * Natural Resources Defense Council * National Wildlife Federation * Physicians for Social Responsibility * Sierra Club * Southern Alliance for Clean Energy * Union of Concerned Scientists * U.S. Public Interest Research Group * Western Organization of Resource Councils * The Wilderness Society

March 2, 2007

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our millions of members we strongly urge you to cosponsor the Federal Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Act (HR 969). This bill, introduced by Representatives Tom Udall (NM) and Todd Platts (PA), will increase our use of homegrown renewable resources like wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass to generate electricity by 20 percent by 2020. Increasing our use of renewable energy is critical to reducing global warming pollution, and making our environment and our economy more secure.

Developing our renewable energy resources will create jobs, save consumers money and bolster rural economies. Recent analyses by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) found that a standard requiring 20 percent of electric generation from renewable energy sources by the year 2020 would generate over 355,000 new high-paying jobs and save consumers at least \$49 billion on their electric and natural gas bills.

In addition, by shifting away from fossil fuels, we can diversify and secure our energy supply while reducing global warming pollution. A 2006 analysis by U.S. PIRG found that by obtaining 20 percent of our electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020, we could cut global warming pollution over 500 million tons, the equivalent of taking approximately 89 million cars off the road. Similarly, a report released last month by the renewable energy scientists of the American Solar Energy Society indicates that renewable energy alone can help us reduce our global warming emissions 26-34 percent by 2050. The recently released U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report underscored the urgent need for these reductions.

More than twenty states and the District of Columbia have already enacted renewable electricity standards of their own because of the policy's benefits. Nine states have increased or accelerated their standards. The policy has been an effective, efficient, and popular driver of expanded renewable energy development. It is time to bring those benefits to the rest of the nation.

In time of rising energy costs and the threat of global warming impacts such as sea level rise, increased droughts and more intense tropical storms, we need a new energy future. This bill is a

critical step toward a cleaner, more secure energy future. We hope that you will cosponsor this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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