

April 11, 2011

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S. William Becker

Dear Senators Bingaman and Murkowski:

We are writing on behalf of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) in response to your solicitation of input into the design of a federal Clean Energy Standard (CES). NACAA is the association of air pollution control agencies in 51 states and territories and over 165 major metropolitan areas in the United States. We write in support of a federal CES that reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) and other air pollutant emissions and does not preempt state renewable portfolio standards (RPS).

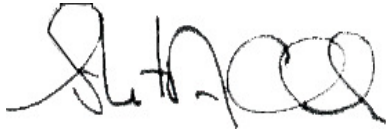
The development and deployment of renewable energy sources in the U.S. will help our country achieve multiple environmental and economic goals. Renewable energy sources reduce emissions of air pollutants that cause the premature death of thousands of Americans every year, cause or contribute to heart and lung disease and otherwise harm public health and welfare. Renewable energy sources also lower U.S. GHG emissions, which contribute to climate change. Climate change is one of the most serious environmental issues facing our generation, already causing severe impacts such as ocean acidification, the loss of Arctic sea ice and rising sea levels. Increasing our nation's reliance on renewable energy also promotes energy independence and spurs technological innovation and economic growth.

We believe a CES should support the reduction of both GHG emissions and emissions of traditional air pollutants from electricity generation. Power plants are the largest stationary source of GHGs, nitrogen oxides (an ozone precursor) and sulfur dioxide (which forms fine particles). EPA will soon promulgate a more protective ozone standard and is considering setting a tighter fine particle standard, and states will need to develop plans that show how they will meet and maintain these standards. A strong CES could help lower air pollutant emissions that lead to violations of these standards. It would also be a powerful tool for reducing GHG emissions.

A federal CES should not preempt state RPS that are more stringent than a federal CES. States should be free to set more ambitious targets for themselves. They may choose to do so to further state environmental goals, state technological innovation or create additional jobs.

We welcome the opportunity to work with you in your effort to write CES legislation. Please feel free to contact either of us or S. William Becker, Executive Director, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Stuart A. Clark
Washington
Co-chair
NACAA Global Warming Committee



Larry Greene
Sacramento, California
Co-chair
NACAA Global Warming Committee