



June 11, 2007

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pete V. Domenici
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Natural Resources
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Please Support Bingaman RPS Amendment, Oppose Domenici CPS Amendment

Dear Senators:

As the full Senate begins consideration of comprehensive energy legislation this week, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) respectfully urges Senators to vote in favor of the Bingaman renewable portfolio standard (RPS) amendment and against the Domenici clean portfolio standard (CPS) amendment.

In order for our nation to seriously address the challenges of energy security and global climate change we need an effective renewable electricity standard that will drive new investment and job growth in the renewable energy sector. The Bingaman RPS proposal would assure crucial progress toward this vitally important objective. Unfortunately, however, the Domenici CPS amendment includes numerous exemptions and loopholes that would undermine the effectiveness of the effort to promote renewable energy.

A core weakness of the CPS proposal is its inclusion of language that could allow virtually any form of electricity generation to qualify as "clean." The CPS amendment would allow the Secretary of Energy to designate "other clean energy sources" that could qualify for clean energy credits without placing *any* parameters on such designations. In addition, it is noteworthy that utilities would receive credit for electricity generated from technology that captures and stores carbon, but the amendment does not specify that a utility must actually employ carbon capture and storage to receive credits.

Also of concern is an important loophole in the CPS amendment that would allow states to waive program requirements. The CPS amendment would allow states with existing requirements to opt out of the Federal requirements based solely on the state's own determination that it has a measure in place that is "comparable to the overall goal" of the Federal program. This vague

standard is not further defined. In contrast, the Bingaman RPS proposal would not interfere with the ability of utilities to comply with state RPS programs. The state opt-out provision in the CPS proposal would lead to substantially reduced renewable energy investment and employment.

Our nation's citizens overwhelmingly support increasing the generation of electricity from renewable sources like wind, biomass and solar power. The Bingaman RPS amendment would meet this demand and put our nation on a path that increases the role of clean domestic energy in meeting our electricity needs. We urge its enactment without the addition of weakening changes such as those included in the Domenici CPS amendment.

Thank you for your time and attention to this vitally important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Swisher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Randy Swisher
Executive Director

Cc: Members of the U.S. Senate