



## House Passes Energy Bill that Includes RES

In a landmark 219-212 vote, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an energy bill that includes a renewable electricity standard (RES) and other important measures that impact renewable energy.

The RES piece of the American Clean Energy and Security Act calls for 20% of the nation's electricity to come from renewable energy by 2020, but it permits states to meet up to 8% of the standard through energy-efficiency improvements. The bill, which was crafted by Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) and Edward Markey (D-Mass.), also includes carbon cap-and-trade provisions to begin reducing U.S. carbon emissions.

AWEA released the following statement from AWEA CEO Denise Bode in response to passage of the legislation:

“The wind energy industry congratulates House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Chairmen Waxman and Markey, and the entire House leadership for successfully adopting energy legislation that includes a renewable electricity standard—a key first step in balancing our electric generation mix by expanding America’s renewable energy generating capacity and creating thousands of new American manufacturing jobs.

“We look forward to continuing to work with the Senate and Congressional leadership to strengthen and pass a national RES. As the global wind power industry makes decisions on locating investment and manufacturing capacity, our nation needs a strong RES to remain competitive in the international race to secure renewable energy investment and jobs.”

Earlier in the day, the House passed an amendment to the bill that includes, among other provisions, an RES for federal government agencies, starting at 6% in 2012 and increasing to 20% in 2020. Federal agencies would also be allowed to enter into renewable power purchasing agreements for up to 20 years, up from 10 years.

Last week on the other side of the U.S. Capitol, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee passed energy legislation that includes an RES of 15% by 2021, with states allowed to fulfill up to 4% of the requirement through energy efficiency measures. If the Senate passes the legislation, the two bills would ultimately go to conference committee to be reconciled.

With regard to both bills, the wind industry has pushed for a stronger renewables standard, most recently in a press teleconference announcing the RES Alliance for Jobs, a coalition of almost two dozen renewable energy companies and national renewable energy associations that support such legislation. The industry has stated that in its current form the RES would not result in new wind energy development and that thousands of potential jobs would be left on the table.

The bill can still be amended when it goes to the Senate floor. Nevertheless, passage of the House bill is viewed as both a landmark moment for renewables legislation as well as an opportunity to strengthen the RES further along in the process.

*Source: Wind Energy Weekly, 26 June 2009*