



Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

Date: September 25, 2007

To: United States Senators

From: Dereth Glance, Executive Program Director

RE: Federal Energy & Climate Protection Policy Priorities

America's continued dependence on conventional fossil fuel energy sources is a detriment to our economy, threatens national security, and causes pollution adversely impacts public health, the natural environment, and the global climate. In order to meet rising energy demand, federal energy policy should promote energy conservation and the use of clean, renewable energy sources, while decreasing our dependence on traditional polluting energy sources.

Recommendations

As Congress debates and adopts a federal energy policy in 2007, CCE offers the following recommendations:

- **Establish mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions**

Scientific and public consensus is clear, Congress must provide the national leadership to reduce US contribution to global warming. Building upon the successful acid rain reduction program, a cap and trade approach to reducing emissions is an effective and proven approach. National climate change policy should complement and strengthen state and regional initiatives, like the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). **Congress should adopt mandatory limits on greenhouse gas emissions without delay.** *CCE encourages Congressional sponsorship of S.309/Sanders, S. 317 Feinstein, and S.280 Lieberman to demonstrate demand for the 110th Congress to provide the national policy leadership necessary tackle global climate change.*

- **Raise Fuel Economy Standards**

The Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standard represents the average miles driven per gallon by all new cars sold in the U.S. CAFE standards have been static for too long, despite the fact that automobiles represent a significant portion of greenhouse gas pollution responsible for global warming. **Congress should raise CAFE standards and end the exemption for SUVs.** **CCE applauds** the US Senate adoption of legislation to increase CAFE standards to 35 mpg by 2020 in June 2007. *CCE encourages Senators to work with Representatives during Conference to ensure increased fuel economy standards are adopted for all Americans to enjoy*

- **National Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard**

Over 24 states have adopted Renewable Portfolio Standards to help increase energy independence and the time has come for national policy to require clean, renewable, and domestically generated electricity to power a higher percentage of our nation's needs. **CCE applauds the House of Representatives for adopting legislation to require at least 15 % of our nation's energy is generated from renewable energy, like wind and solar by 2020.** *CCE urges the Senate to adopt the same requirements to benefit all Americans.*

Over, please →

- **Create market stability for renewable energy**

The Production Tax Credit for Renewable Energy (PTC) gives a tax break for energy that is produced from renewable energy. Congress has sporadically renewed the tax credit for one or two years at a time, adding uncertainty about the profitability of projects to potential renewable energy developers. **Congress should extend the Production Tax Credit for Renewable Energy for a decade.** *CCE supports H.R.197/Pomeroy, which would extend the PTC for five years and urges the Senate to introduce companion legislation. CCE encourages members of Congress to work with colleagues to lengthen the terms of federal support for commitment to clean, renewable energy development for 10 years.*

- **Invest in clean, renewable energy; End oil, coal and nuclear subsidies**

The fossil fuels and nuclear power industry receives billions of dollars each year in taxpayer subsidies for research and development. American dependence on these energy sources has profoundly negative impacts on our society, and should no longer be subsidized by the American taxpayer.

Nuclear power is not the solution to our current energy crisis. Nuclear power is expensive, creates radioactive waste that must be secured at great cost for thousands of years, and is a potential target for a terrorist attack, as acknowledged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Security Agency. Also, most energy analysts agree that the energy industry is moving to smaller, decentralized and localized energy production, while nuclear energy is clearly a very centralized energy source. Every dollar put into this high-risk, unstable technology is a dollar that could have been used to develop clean and decentralized renewable energy production.

CCE urges Congress to divest federal money from non-renewable industries and substantially invest in clean, renewable energy. *CCE supports Congress investing in direct incentives for residential and commercial energy conservation programs and increased use of alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar.*

- **Restore States' rights in siting energy facilities and transmission.**

Congress should repeal provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that circumvents local siting of transmission infrastructure, including DOE's proposed National Electric Corridor and FERC's exclusive jurisdiction over the siting of Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facilities throughout the United States. CCE believes this policy is inconsistent with federal agencies' mission, violates states' rights and public trust. Excluding local and state authorities will only hinder the process of addressing our nation's power needs. CCE supports the federal, state, and local authorities working together with industry and the public to meet our nation's energy needs. **Congress should restore state authority and repeal as well as provisions that circumvent local participation and control in the siting of energy infrastructure.** *CCE urges Congress to restore states' rights in siting energy infrastructure and facilities by repealing FERC's exclusive jurisdiction over LNG siting and ensuring local participation and control in siting energy infrastructure.*

Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE) is an 80,000 member, non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization working to protect public health and the natural environment in New York and Connecticut. CCE works to build widespread citizen understanding and advocacy for policies and actions designed to manage and protect interdependent land and water resources, wildlife and public health.

Please feel free to contact Dereth Glance, Executive Program Director at (315) 472-1339 for any reason.