



June 17, 2009

Chairman Jeff Bingaman
Senate Energy and
Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Lisa Murkowski
Senate Energy and
Natural Resources Committee
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Bingaman and Ranking Member Murkowski:

I am writing on behalf of the American Public Power Association (APPA) to express our support for the American Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009.

APPA is the national service organization representing the interests of over 2,000 municipal and other state and locally-owned electric utilities throughout the United States (in every state except Hawaii). Collectively, public power utilities deliver electricity to one out of every seven electricity consumers (approximately 45 million people), serving some of the nation's largest cities. However, the vast majority of APPA's members serve communities with populations of 10,000 or less.

Recognizing the difficulty of comprising comprehensive energy legislation, APPA appreciates the hard work and dedication by Members of the Committee over the last several months and the significant progress and improvements that have been made to the bill. Specifically, APPA is pleased with the federal renewable electricity standard (RES) as APPA's membership has endorsed a federal RES of no more than 15% by 2020 with an applicability threshold of 4 million MWH of retail sales annually that allows for the deployment of energy efficiency measures to aid in meeting this standard. In addition, the provisions establishing a clean energy deployment administration, advancing carbon capture and storage technologies, developing additional renewable energy, enhancing energy efficiency, furthering green jobs training and energy workforce development, and fostering the transmission system are all significant steps forward in improving our nation's energy policies while protecting the interests of consumers.

As there is always room for improvement, APPA still has concerns with certain provisions of the legislation including language on: cyber-security; mandatory interconnection standards; and peak demand reduction. Moreover, APPA is still reviewing the amended bill reported out of the Committee and may have remaining issues to bring to your attention. While we appreciate that the Energy and Natural Resources Committee does not have jurisdiction over tax or appropriations measures, we nonetheless would urge the Committee and its members to seek a comparable incentive for public power through both the tax writing and appropriations processes (in the form of significant Clean Renewable Energy Bond authority and/or significant additional funding for the Renewable Energy Production Incentive) so that, in complying with the RES, public power utilities and their customers are not disadvantaged compared to private sector

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companies. We look forward to working with you and your staff on these items as the bill progresses to the Senate floor.

APPA supports federal legislation to address greenhouse gas emissions and has worked with our membership to create Climate Change Policy Principles that should be captured in any legislative product developed by Congress. However, we strongly believe that climate change legislation should be considered independently of the energy bill reported out by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Attempting to address both climate change and comprehensive energy policy issues in one legislative vehicle would simply not be an effective way to achieve either legislative goal and may potentially jeopardize or delay the passage of this important comprehensive energy bill.

Thank you again for your time and effort in crafting this legislation and for your consideration of our views. As always, we look forward to working with you and the entire Senate as the American Clean Energy Leadership Act moves towards the Senate floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Crisson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Crisson
President and CEO

cc: Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee