



National Hydrogen Association

August 24, 2009

Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman, Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6150

Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and
Natural Resources
U.S. Senate
304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6150

Dear Chairman Bingaman and Ranking Member Murkowski:

I write on behalf of the members of the National Hydrogen Association (NHA) to express our support of the American Clean Energy Leadership Act of 2009.

The NHA strongly supports the creation of a Clean Energy Deployment Administration. The CEDA will provide an independent body with both the expertise and means to invest in the development and deployment of the most promising clean energy technologies, such as hydrogen infrastructure and fuel cells. Allowing it the autonomy to determine where and how to invest provides critical insulation from the occasional political whims that tend to favor certain technologies over another (be it hydrogen, ethanol, batteries, etc.), and wisely provides flexibility to finance projects through a wide variety of financial tools, such as direct loans versus loan guarantees or co-lending, all of which will be necessary in certain circumstances. The creation of the CEDA promises enormous benefit to our nation, and we applaud you for including this measure.

In addition, the NHA also supports the Committee's decision to produce both the Energy Water Nexus Study and the Transportation Roadmap Study. A comprehensive study of the water intensity of our various energy technology options is vitally important and too often overlooked. While one method of producing renewable hydrogen is through the electrolysis of water with wind or solar electricity, we welcome an opportunity for an independent and comprehensive comparison to the water intensity of producing other transportation fuels, so that we will better understand how to achieve our energy and transportation goals in concert with increasingly necessary water conservation efforts. Hydrogen and fuel cell technologies are a necessary component of a balanced energy strategy if we are to achieve GHG reductions and energy security goals. Both of these analyses rightly provide for inclusion of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies, and we anxiously anticipate results that will verify the need and many benefits for our society from transitioning to a hydrogen economy.

We commend your strong leadership in creating this bipartisan legislation. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to move America toward a cleaner, more sustainable and secure energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Jerome Hinkle". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

F. Jerome Hinkle
Vice President, Policy and Government Affairs