




**National Rural Electric  
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Glenn English  
Chief Executive Officer

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

June 17, 2009

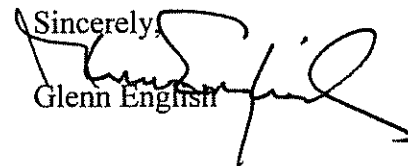
Dear Chairman Bingaman,

We are writing today to voice our support for the bipartisan energy bill passed by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

NRECA represents over 900 private consumer owned electric cooperatives that serve more than 42 million electric consumers. Because people are moving to electric cooperative territory, our demand for power has grown and continues to expand at twice the national average for utilities. This growth is in spite of investments in efficiency programs and cooperatives leading the industry sector in demand control and smart meter implementation. As well, electric cooperatives are leaders in providing renewable electricity to consumers and are increasing our capacity to generate electricity from renewable resources.

We support passage of this legislation. It takes a balanced approach to a range of policies needed to deliver increased renewable electricity supplies while maintaining cooperative consumers' access to affordable, reliable power. We look forward to working with you as the bill goes to the floor to further strengthen its provisions.

We applaud the strong leadership displayed by you and Ranking Member Murkowski in taking a balanced, bipartisan approach to the bill. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact NRECA Government Relations at 703-907-5839.

Sincerely,  
  
Glenn English

cc: The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member