



September 19, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
361A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
235 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Max Baucus
Senate Committee on Finance Chairman
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Senate Committee on Finance
Ranking Member
United States Senate
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David Camp
Committee on Ways & Means Chairman
United States House of Representatives
341 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Committee on Ways & Means Ranking Member
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear President Obama, Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi, Chairman Baucus, Ranking Member Hatch, Chairman Camp, and Ranking Member Levin:

As leaders of America's renewable energy industries, we are writing to underscore the important role federal tax incentives play in developing and promoting new domestic energy resources to meet the nation's growing demand for energy. Well-crafted, stable and efficient federal policy that provides long-term certainty plays a critical role in achieving the nation's energy policy objectives while leveraging private sector resources to deploy new, clean domestic energy resources.

As with every other major U.S. energy resource, smart, reliable long-term policy helps bolster America's renewable energy sector and yields significant economic and energy policy benefits. The organizations who have signed this letter represent over 507,000 renewable energy workers in all 50 states. Combined, we provide 425 billion kilowatt hours (kWh) of clean, domestic energy, enough to power 40 million homes.

In spite of the nation's recent economic challenges, most of the recent growth in renewable energy jobs, investment, manufacturing capability and technological advancements has occurred in just the past few years. All of this is a direct result of renewable energy tax policies that were put in place by the previous bipartisan efforts of Congress. Now – when economic recovery is slow at best, job growth is still paramount, and technology leadership is uncertain – is distinctly not the time to increase the tax burden on America's renewable energy industries.

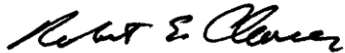
Over time, renewable energy sources have become more cost competitive with traditional energy sources. With the continuation of modest tax relief to encourage the development of the nation's renewable energy resources, there will be further technological advancement and greater efficiencies achieved in the renewable sector. Costs will continue to decline and sustainability will be achieved.

A continued federal commitment to advance the nation's renewable energy resources will further reduce energy costs for consumers and increase diversification in our domestic energy portfolio. This is wholly consistent with the nation's economic and energy policy goals. In the highly regulated electric energy sector, renewable energy tax incentives represent our nation's de facto energy policy, ensuring the continued development of a diverse domestic energy mix. Without these incentives, the nation is in danger of becoming entirely reactive and overly reliant on a reduced number of energy sources, putting consumers and our economy at risk.

Targeted tax relief has proven to be an extremely effective means of promoting market diversity and technology maturation – and energy is no exception. Energy tax incentives should be used to foster market competition based on national energy policy goals. As such, in the course of Congressional deliberation on legislation to grow the economy and reduce our budget deficit, we strongly encourage you to continue the tax relief that promoted such dramatic investment, created jobs and fostered project development.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. The renewable energy industries look forward to constructively working with you to re-develop vibrant American communities and help solve the nation's economic and fiscal challenges.

Sincerely,



Robert Cleaves
Biomass Power Association



Denise Bode
American Wind Energy Association



Linda Church Ciocci
National Hydropower Association



Karl Gawell
Geothermal Energy Association



Rhone Resch
Solar Energy Industries Association