



Industrial Energy Consumers of America

The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers

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February 17, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Re: Renewable Electricity Standard – Request Hearing to Hear from Consumers –

The Cost and Reliability of Energy Still Matters

The cost and reliability of energy still matters. On behalf of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) we request that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources have another hearing on the Renewable Electricity Standard and this time hear from consumers who are going to pay for it. It is not good enough that its renewable energy, it must be cost competitive and reliable.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is an association of leading manufacturing companies with \$510 billion in annual sales and with more than 850,000 employees nationwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: plastics, cement, paper, food processing, brick, chemicals, fertilizer, insulation, steel, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, aluminum and brewing.

If Congress intends to pass an RES, it must lower the cost of the resulting delivery of electricity. The best way to accomplish that is to allow "energy efficiency" to compete head to head with renewable energy sources. Competition between renewable energy and energy efficiency will help drive down the cost of the delivered electricity. Every home owner, farmer and manufacturer will benefit.

The market – not the Congress should determine winners and losers by letting renewable energy and energy efficiency compete head to head. We are sincerely committed to working with you to increase a diverse and domestic supply of energy and energy efficiency.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio

President

Cc: Committee on Energy and Natural Resources