



# RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY STANDARD

An RES Will Help America in Many Ways



“A NATIONAL RES WOULD EXPAND THE BENEFITS ALREADY ACCRUING IN MANY STATES: MORE NONPOLLUTING POWER, A SURGE IN CLEAN-ENERGY JOBS, A REDUCTION IN CARBON EMISSIONS AND A BRIGHTER FUTURE.”

— *Center for American Progress, 2009*



In addition to encouraging the expansion of clean, green energy, a 25% Renewable Electricity Standard by 2025 will help break America's dependence on foreign oil, cut greenhouse gases, create hundreds of thousands new jobs and pump billions into our troubled economy.

## BOOST AMERICA'S ECONOMY

- Create 297,000 jobs for American workers in all regions of the country
- Generate \$263.4 billion in new capital investment economic growth nationwide
- Provide \$11.5 billion in new local tax revenue benefitting schools, roads and other local community needs



## PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

- Reduce global warming pollutants by 277 million metric tons — equal to taking 45.3 million cars off our roads
- Reduce other harmful air pollutants like mercury and sulfur dioxide, while helping to repair the damage done to our water and land ecosystems by fossil fueled power plants
- Save Millions for American Consumers
- Cut electricity prices up to 7.6 percent between 2010 and 2030
- Save consumers an estimated \$95.5 billion in electricity and natural gas costs — \$29.2 billion for households, \$41.1 billion for businesses, \$25.2 billion for industrial users by 2030



## **A SUCCESSFUL RENEWABLE ENERGY STANDARD MUST INCLUDE:**

### ■ **Tradable REC credits for existing facilities, which will protect the viability of America's existing biomass portfolio.**

Adopting aggressive renewable energy goals without recognizing current biomass assets would be counterproductive. Putting existing plants out of business while encouraging the construction of new ones creates an uneven business climate and will result in no net increase in green power. Additionally, such action would create a devastating negative impact in small, rural communities resulting in lost jobs and economic instability. To expand America's green power portfolio, existing facilities must be allowed to trade uncommitted RECs and recognize their values in order to be competitive.

### ■ **A reasonable and expansive definition of renewable biomass.**

We need a definition that promotes the vigorous growth of green power, protects property rights and recognizes all environmentally sound potential biomass fuel sources. By working with the biomass industry and environmental stakeholders, we can achieve these goals and strengthen America.

*Source: Economic and environmental benefits based on research conducted by the Union of Concerned Scientists, 2009.*

**Nationally, 84% of Americans support a Federal RES, according to a recent Washington Post/ABC poll. Another recent poll by Garin Hart Research Group shows strong bipartisan support — 86% among Democrats, 62% among Republicans and 71% among Independents.**

*American Wind Energy Association*