



DAVID A. RAYMOND
PRESIDENT & CEO

September 22, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

On behalf of the American Council of Engineering Companies – the business association of the nation’s engineering industry – we urge you to take advantage of the opportunity in the next two months to schedule for Senate floor consideration a national Renewable Electricity Standard (RES). As evidenced by the introduction of a bi-partisan stand-alone RES bill this week, the initiative has strong support on both sides of the aisle and will make major strides to increase energy efficiency, promote renewable energy and expand transmission capacity.

A vigorous RES is essential to developing the vast reserves of natural renewable energy resources that exist in the United States. A robust national standard also will help to create thousands of new jobs, spur economic development, reduce pollution, and save consumers money on their utility bills. It is an important piece of a comprehensive energy strategy that is so critical to our nation’s economy.

By passing an RES this year, the Congress has a tremendous opportunity to provide market certainty to the energy sector that is poised to invest billions of dollars to modernize our electricity system and develop clean energy solutions to our growing energy needs. Utilities and other energy industries need a signal from Congress to invest their idling capital and help create new jobs and tax revenue.

In addition, the United States is at a crucial moment in the race for global dominance for clean energy leadership, with manufacturers determining where to spend billions of dollars building facilities and infrastructure. Countries like China and the European Union have enacted their own renewable standards and other policies to attract those investments. For example, last year China claimed the global lead in wind power installed and solar power manufactured, with investment almost triple the U.S. investment over the same period.

There is strong bipartisan support from a broad range of manufacturing, labor, utilities, agriculture and business groups for establishing an RES, recognizing that it is an important tool in building a strong clean energy industry that keeps America competitive and creates jobs.

We urge you to help the United States move forward in accomplishing one of the key components of a national energy policy and make adoption of RES a priority for Senate floor action this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Raymond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

David A. Raymond
President & CEO