



May 5, 2009

Energy and Natural Resources Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

We strongly believe that investing in our nation's renewable energy resources is a meaningful way of addressing our commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, creating and preserving U.S. jobs and responding to our country's energy needs. A Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) is an energy policy that if done correctly, can place our nation on this path.

As your committee prepares to mark-up renewable energy legislation, the undersigned organizations urge you to include the following principles which we believe are essential components of effective renewable energy and climate legislation:

- To ensure that the technology and economic potential of a Renewable Energy Standard is maximized, the legislation should serve to increase renewable energy production to 25% by 2025;
- The forest products industry should qualify for tradable renewable energy credits for all of the renewable power produced by the industry from biomass – whether used on-site or sold on the electricity grid to third parties. Eligible biomass should include any residues or byproducts of wood, pulp, or paper facilities; and
- In light of the potential impact of the renewable electricity standard on forest resources, the legislation should promote sustainable forest management and corrective measures, if and when needed.

Sincerely,

American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA)
Sierra Club
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)
United Steelworkers (USW)