

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 29, 2015

National Governors Association
444 North Capitol Street NW, Suite 267
Washington, D.C. 20001-1512

Dear Governors:

We believe it is time for the U.S. Senate to consider the first update to our nation's energy policies in almost a decade. In particular, we believe the U.S. must establish a framework that helps unleash investment in our infrastructure sufficient to ensure all American citizens and businesses have access to affordable, efficient, reliable and cleaner energy; and that we must do so in a way that cuts carbon emissions, in order to address climate change and the substantial impacts it is already having on communities across the country.

We are writing to ask your support for the following goals. Your feedback will help us collectively craft a path forward on an energy policy that unleashes America's limitless capacity for innovation, rewards middle-class families for making smart energy choices, and keeps our air and water clean for generations to come. In particular we believe in the following principles:

- **Investing in clean energy:** The U.S. should continue on a trajectory that encourages investment, invention and deployment of the clean energy technologies that are creating jobs today, and will continue to do so for decades to come--from renewable energy and low-carbon fossil energy, to storage and advanced grid systems.
- **Empowering consumers:** We must protect consumers, ensure the safety, physical security and cybersecurity of our infrastructure, and empower our citizens and businesses to make their own energy choices.
- **Modernizing infrastructure:** We must modernize our energy infrastructure, to ensure we have reliable and resilient systems in place that can respond to the complex needs of a 21st Century economy.
- **Cutting pollution and waste:** We must cut pollution and end needless waste in both the way we use energy, and in the way in which governments execute our energy policy objectives.

- **Investing in research and development:** Finally, we must continue to make foundational investments in the research and development that ensure U.S. businesses will successfully compete in growing global markets for new energy products and services.

In short, we recognize that the success of our efforts to address today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities will continue to rely on a foundational partnership between federal policymakers and States. As such, we seek your input on policies consistent with these shared principles, to help guide our consideration of reasonable, common-sense updates to our nation's energy policy.

We look forward to your feedback on these principles and any other suggestions you wish to share, which may be uploaded to: democrats.senate.gov/energyletter.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell

Harry Reid

Mark Warner

Dean DeLuca

Barbara Boxer

Chuck Schumer

Chris Coons

Tom Udall

Bob Casey, Jr.

Jack Reed

Rebecca Stetson - Robert M. Mearns

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