



March 16, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

As the Senate continues its consideration of the Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2008 and beyond, we urge you to support efforts to provide sufficient authorities to transition America's fuel supply, so that by the year 2025, the nation's farms, ranches, and forests will provide 25 percent of the energy consumed in the United States. Our organizations are part of the 25x'25 Alliance, a coalition of more than 400 organizations that support producing 25% of America's energy from renewable sources such as biomass, ethanol, solar, and wind.

The 25x'25 Steering Committee has recently released its *Action Plan* (attached) to put the country on the path to the 25x'25 future. The Plan calls for a federal investment of just 5% of what America spent on imported oil last year. This is an important first step toward putting the country on the 25x'25 path. As the Senate considers the Budget Resolution, please help ensure there are sufficient authorities to fund the following priorities, including:

- Increased funding for the Farm Bill to support the production of on-farm energy and energy crops;
- Extension and expansion of renewable energy tax incentives such as Clean Renewable Energy Bonds, Production Tax Credits, financing for renewable transmission upgrades and connections, heating and cooling, and E85 pumps; and
- Expansion of agricultural and energy research, development, demonstration, and deployment programs for renewable energy technologies.

The Senate's budget decisions are a critical first step to improving America's energy security through increased use of renewable energy. A recent study by the University of Tennessee demonstrates that achieving the 25x'25 goal will yield multiple benefits for America, including:

- Boosting the economy by increasing farm income by \$180 billion, generating \$700 billion in new economic activity annually, and creating as many as 5 million new jobs.
- Improving national security by reducing oil consumption by 2.5 million barrels per day – 10 percent of U.S. projected consumption in 2025.
- Addressing climate change by reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 1 billion tons – two-thirds of projected emissions growth by 2025.

Making the investment to achieve these renewable energy benefits is vital to America's economic, national security, and environmental future. We urge your leadership in helping to make as large of an investment as possible.

Sincerely yours,

s/ Center for American Progress

s/ Energy Future Coalition

s/ Environmental Defense

s/ General Motors Corporation

s/ National Wildlife Federation

s/ Union of Concerned Scientists

Cc: The Honorable Kent Conrad, Chairman, Senate Budget Committee
The Honorable Judd Gregg, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee