



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ERNIE FLETCHER
GOVERNOR

August 14, 2006

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Mr. J. Read Smith
Mr. William Richards
Co-Chairs, 25 x 25 Steering Committee
c/o Mr. Ernest C. Shea
208 Melanchton Ave.
Lutherville, MD 21093

Dear Mr. Smith and Mr. Richards:

I am writing to endorse your 25 x 25 initiative, a vision to produce 25 percent of our nation's energy from renewable sources by 2025. Without question, the agricultural industry in this country can achieve this goal and help lessen our dependence on foreign energy supplies. In Kentucky, we have many natural resources, along with the leadership needed to assist our nation in reaching this achievable goal. Kentucky has led the nation by investing 50 percent of its Master Settlement Agreement into diversifying and growing our agriculture economy over the past six years. Some of this funding has assisted in the development of new ethanol and bio-diesel plants.

My Office of Agricultural Policy currently works with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and many others to explore and develop new opportunities for our farmers in the area of bio-mass production. Kentucky has extensive areas of productive farmland, which are ideal for dedicated production of bio-mass crops. In addition, we have an abundance of hardwoods, timber harvesting and processing facilities to supply materials to combine with bio-mass production.

Kentucky is a state in transition from an agricultural economy, based on tobacco production, to one that is strong and growing with diversity. I firmly believe that our farmers will play a major role in providing the energy needs for this country in the future. I am pleased to endorse the 25 x 25 initiative and offer support for this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ernie Fletcher".

Ernie Fletcher

c: The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Governor of Kansas



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/D