



**Dave Heineman**  
Governor

# STATE OF NEBRASKA

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March 30, 2006

Mr. J. Read Smith and  
Mr. William Richards, Committee Co-Chairs  
25 x '25 Energy Work Group  
P.O. Box 603  
Brooklandville, MD 21022-0603

Dear Mr. Smith and Mr. Richards:

I am writing to express my support for the 25 x '25 initiative launched last year by agriculture and energy industry leaders from around the country.

The issue of energy is one of the most important facing our nation today. Increasing energy costs have impacted our families, agricultural producers and businesses, both here in Nebraska and across the country. We have seen unprecedented growth in the demand for energy worldwide. Ensuring reliable supplies of energy is critical to our future, and it is in our best interests to work to develop and implement a comprehensive energy strategy that takes into account opportunities for expanded use of renewable energy resources.

I believe that farmers and livestock producers have an important role to play in ensuring that the goal of America's energy independence becomes a reality.

Ensuring that 25 percent of our nation's energy production comes from renewable sources by the year 2025 will require increased diversity and investments in industries responsible for energy produced from clean, renewable and agriculture-based resources. As a leading agriculture state, Nebraska is positioned to become a major contributor in this national endeavor.

Last year, our state was the country's third largest ethanol producing state, and Nebraska currently leads the nation in the number of ethanol plants under construction. Since the early 1990s, our state has attracted approximately \$1.5 billion in capital thanks to ethanol, and the renewable fuels sector is a very important source of investment capital for Nebraska's ag economy.

Other agriculture-based resources are also contributing to Nebraska's growing renewable energy sector, including the development of biodiesel from soybeans and construction of methane digesters that produce electricity while greatly reducing odors from livestock waste. In addition, the potential to increase energy production from wind and solar power and develop ethanol from native grasses and crop residues is also strong in our state.

Given the range of potential renewable resources and the interest in pursuing new efficiencies, I am pleased that Nebraska now has a steering committee to coordinate with the national work group and share information among those interested in helping achieve the 25 x '25 goal.

I'm particularly pleased that the 25 x '25 Work Group is open to pursuing various methods to achieve the 25 percent goal. Opportunities for development and investment in renewable energy are different in each state. By partnering with individual states, this effort allows room for agricultural producers and others involved in development of renewable energy to pursue the path that makes the most sense for producers and local economies.

I applaud the effort to increase our nation's stake in renewable energy. An expanded commitment to producing ethanol and other alternative fuels would represent a dramatic investment in our nation's agriculture industry to put America's farmers and ranchers at the heart of our transportation system instead of imported oil.

We can no longer afford to rely on the energy sources of the past. Renewable energy has the potential to create more jobs, spur greater economic development, and make more affordable energy supplies available to all Nebraska families.

I am proud to support the 25 x '25 vision, and look forward to working with other leaders in our state and across the nation to create new opportunities for America's renewable energy future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Heineman".

Dave Heineman  
Governor

CC: Senator Bob Kremer, Nebraska Legislature Agriculture Committee Chairman  
Senator Philip Erdman, Nebraska Legislature Agriculture Committee Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Bart Ruth, Nebraska 25 x '25 Steering Committee Member  
Mr. Richard Hahn, Nebraska 25 x '25 Steering Committee Member  
Mr. Gerald Vap, Nebraska 25 x '25 Steering Committee Member