



**BOB TAFT**  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF OHIO

September 15, 2006

J. Read Smith, Co-Chair, 25x'25 Initiative  
William Richards, Co-Chair, 25x'25 Initiative  
P.O. Box 603  
Brooklandville, MD 21022

Dear Mr. Smith and Mr. Richards:

I am writing to endorse the 25x'25 Initiative, which supports creating twenty-five percent of America's energy supply from renewable energy sources by 2025. As a result of high fuel prices, ongoing conflicts in key petroleum supplier regions around the world, rapidly escalating growth in energy consumption in developing countries and short- and long-term environmental concerns, America can be a world-leader in reducing reliance on traditional energy supplies.

Throughout my administration, we have taken many proactive steps to encourage the use of renewable energy in Ohio. Most recently in February of this year, I announced a series of initiatives that the State of Ohio would be taking to further encourage responsible energy consumption and the promotion of renewable energy sources. These initiatives will help make Ohio a leader in renewable energy sources and achieve 25x'25's goals. Some of these initiatives include:

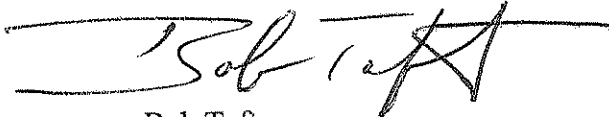
- Developing a wind power production incentive. This five-year, \$25 million program will provide a grant from 1 to 1.2 cents per kilowatt hour of electricity produced by wind. It will provide a maximum \$5 million a year and will target projects from two to fifty megawatts. The program will add clean electricity to the grid, thereby diversifying Ohio's energy portfolio.
- Ordering the PUCO to investigate the obstacles to renewable energy generation of electricity and other forms of generation that occur near farms, factories and other electricity consumers. Draft findings have been released and are open for public comment through the end of the month. The draft findings include the call for further investigation of a Renewable Portfolio Standard.
- Requiring that all new state vehicles procured be flex fuel vehicles when an equivalent alternative fuel vehicle is available on the state contract at a similar price;
- Requiring minimum biofuel usage targets in the state fleet;

- Making key State energy efficiency investments and using the realized savings to enter into long-term contracts to purchase electricity from Ohio renewable energy production, including wind, solar and biomass.
- Increasing grant funds available to triple the number of E85 pumps in the state by the end of 2007;

We are already seeing positive rewards from these initiatives including several new biofuel stations throughout the state and a renewed interest in wind power production.

I believe these significant steps Ohio is taking will reinforce the goals of the 25x'25 Initiative and help make renewable energy a state and national priority. I look forward to supporting Ohio's participation in the 25x'25 Initiative and increasing the nation's use of renewable energy sources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Taft", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Bob Taft  
Governor