



**MAY 06 2011**



The Honorable Michael Simpson  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It is with great pleasure that we submit this report on the renewable energy programs currently being implemented on lands administered by the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Agriculture. This responds to the report directed in the Conference Report accompanying the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 2010 (P.L. 111-88). The report provides an overview of the processes and actions our Departments are taking to enhance our Nation's renewable energy capability while protecting our public landscapes and ecological, cultural, and scenic resources.

The Departments broadened the focus of the report, in response to a request from Senator Reid, to address conventional energy development as well. This report outlines the steps we are taking to ensure that both renewable and non-renewable energy development proceed in a manner that advances America's energy security, without compromising the many other values associated with our public lands.

Together, Interior and Agriculture are our Nation's principal public lands stewards with jurisdiction over 25 percent of the land mass of the United States and energy development on the 1.7 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf. This land base includes extensive renewable energy resources. We are working collaboratively with other Federal agencies like the Department of Energy, states, local governments, industry, and others to facilitate the development of these assets. These efforts will advance President Obama's vision for greater energy independence for America, while helping to reduce potential climate change impacts, reduce our carbon footprint, and create new jobs. Our program includes a framework for siting the new transmission lines needed to move renewable energy from the public lands to the places where people live and work.

The President has presented us with a great opportunity to help our Nation transition to a new clean energy economy for the future. Renewable energy programs will help the Nation produce energy from sustainable resources, and in doing so create green jobs. America's businesses are responding. Companies are investing in wind farms off the Atlantic seacoast, solar facilities in the Southwest, projects using biomass from our farms and forests, and geothermal energy projects throughout the West. These new energy resources can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy production and, once installed, harness abundant, sustainable, renewable energy that nature itself provides.

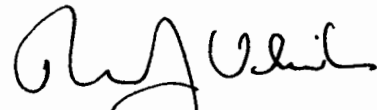
We appreciate the opportunity to demonstrate our progress and appreciate your interest in these efforts. Your support for these programs is helping us build a strong foundation to achieve greater energy independence, tackle climate change impacts, conserve our forests and landscapes, and empower tribal communities. We look forward to our ongoing collaboration.

A similar letter is being sent to the Honorable Jack Reed, Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate; and the Honorable Jim Moran, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, Committee on Appropriations, House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Vilsack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  
Department of Agriculture

Enclosure



**MAY 06 2011**



The Honorable Jim Moran  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Interior,  
Environment, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Moran:

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Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
Department of the Interior



Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  
Department of Agriculture

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**MAY 06 2011**



The Honorable Jack Reed  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Interior,  
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Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture

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**MAY 06 2011**



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Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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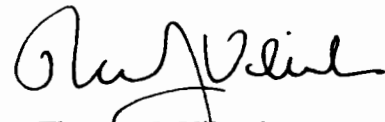
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