

## **Statement of Support for Making Energy Efficiency a National Priority**

A concerted national commitment to energy efficiency is urgently needed to meet the challenge of today's energy crisis and address global climate change. Energy efficiency is a fast and low-cost way to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. Rapid adoption of policies and programs that drive greater energy efficiency in our homes, businesses, industries, and government facilities will make electricity more affordable and reliable, enhance our standard of living, create new jobs, and protect the environment.

We, the undersigned, support the rapid adoption of public policy initiatives to increase the energy efficiency of commercial and residential buildings, power generation and distribution systems, appliances, and industrial processes. If regulatory barriers and other impediments are removed, energy efficiency is capable of meeting up to 50 percent of new electricity demand over the coming decades, according to the National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency, an initiative of more than 50 regulatory commissions, utilities, environmental groups, and businesses. The Action Plan estimates that energy efficiency can reduce U.S. electricity consumption by up to 1 percent per year over projected demand, and some states are achieving even higher savings. At half the cost of adding new generation, increased efficiency can save consumers \$100 billion a year on their energy bills by 2025, according to the Action Plan.

An effective strategy to spur investment in energy efficiency, involving the private sector and government, including regulatory agencies, would reap large energy savings, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and serve as an engine for economic development, creating millions of new jobs.

At the state level, regulations that compensate utility companies only on the basis of their kilowatt-hour sales discourage investment in efficiency measures and thus fail to treat energy efficiency on an equal footing with power generation. At the federal level, coherent tax, regulatory, and workforce policies are needed to promote investment in energy efficiency technology and its application in commercial and residential markets.

Therefore, we urge that energy efficiency be deemed the essential starting point in meeting demand for additional U.S. power supply and call on:

- Governors, state officials, and mayors to ensure that energy planning processes prioritize efficiency as a resource, and at a minimum reward investments in energy efficiency and new generation equally;
- The President and Congress to direct the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Department of Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency to make energy efficiency a priority energy resource;
- The President to appoint a National Energy Efficiency Advocate to drive efficiency gains across all sectors of the U.S. economy, including the Federal government;

- The President and Congress to enact a comprehensive program of education, skill development, and worker placement that can help governments, businesses, efficiency providers, and unions ensure that a highly skilled work force is available to implement wide-scale energy efficiency measures;
- The President and Congress to create policies and programs that encourage the rapid development and deployment of new energy efficient technologies and systems, and that leverage the necessary private investment to position the United States as a global leader in the manufacture and installation of such technologies; and
- The President and Congress to establish tax incentives, with comparable incentives for public entities, and disclosure requirements that encourage financial markets to recognize the aggregate value of efficiency investments and deploy private-sector capital accordingly.

We pledge to work with Governors, Congress, the Administration, regulatory commissions, and other partners to advance this agenda and to participate in projects that demonstrate the business case for energy efficiency and accelerate its market penetration.



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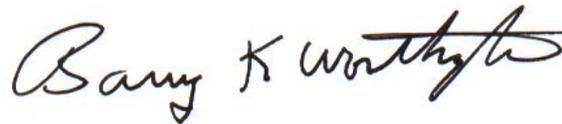
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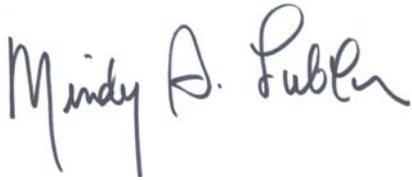
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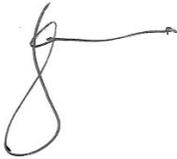
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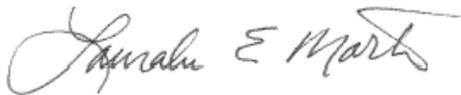
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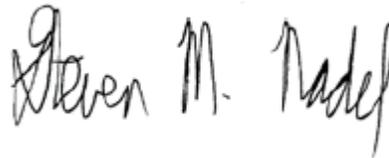
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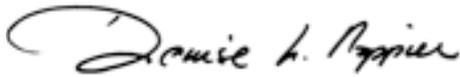
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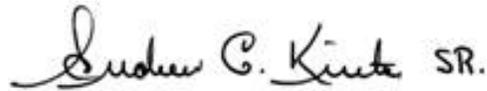
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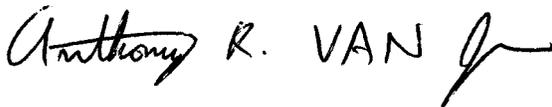
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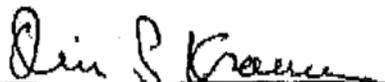
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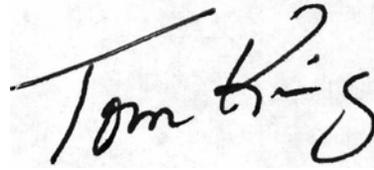
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