



April 4, 2008

The Honorable Jay Inslee
U.S. House of Representatives
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Inslee:

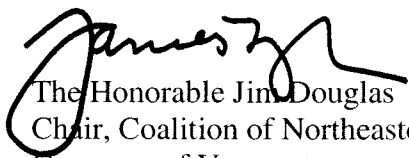
On behalf of our regional Governors' associations, we are writing in support of authorization of the National Bioenergy Partnership. This vital program builds on a collaborative of five successful regional biomass energy programs created by Congress and the Department of Energy 25 years ago. Federal authorization of this program will strengthen this federal-state-private partnership that recognizes the regional nature of energy resources and works cooperatively to address opportunities and barriers to the regional energy markets. This Partnership is uniquely designed to offer timely and effective support for expanded biomass development by building public and private sector networks; leveraging federal, state, and private resources; and providing technical assistance, citizen outreach and education.

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (EISA) underscores our nation's need for cooperative initiatives among the federal agencies, states, and industry to foster all forms of domestic energy production. Bioenergy in its many forms offers numerous market-ready opportunities to provide domestic energy now, while simultaneously improving the environment and creating economic development for rural America. The National Bioenergy Partnership already has in place a unique structure that brings together biomass technology and policy issues, forming a powerful tool to sustain the provisions of EISA. A modest federal investment in the National Bioenergy Partnership can leverage significant financial and technical resources to uphold energy, economic development, and environmental objectives of the nation and the states. The National Bioenergy Partnership is a vital complement to the research and technology work of the United States Department of Energy and its national laboratories, as well as the resource development and financial assistance programs of the United States Department of Agriculture.

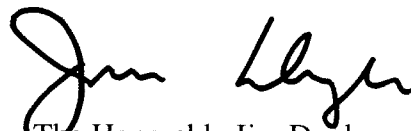
The Partnership is a collaboration of four regional Governors' organizations – the Coalition of Northeastern Governors (CONEG) Policy Research Center, Inc., the Council of Great Lakes Governors (CGLG), the Southern States Energy Board (SSEB), and the Western Governors' Association (WGA) – and the Pacific Regional Biomass Partnership hosted by Washington State University, which together represent 50 states, two territories and the District of Columbia. Its technical assistance and market building activities are tailored to the specific resources and opportunities in each region, thus providing an important link in the chain of research, resource production and technology commercialization. Education and outreach to state government and consumers is essential in building the necessary knowledge, policies and market acceptance for biomass fuels and technology.

In closing, we support your leadership to authorize this important program that links federal and state programs to address renewable biomass energy. We are ready to work with you on this initiative. Should you or your staff have any questions, our staff contacts are Anne Stubbs, Executive Director of the CONEG Policy Research Center, Inc. at (202) 624-8450; David Naftzger, Executive Director of the Council of Great Lakes Governors at (312) 407-0177; Ken Nemeth, Executive Director of the Southern States Energy Board at (770) 242-7712; and Pam Inmann, Executive Director of the Western Governors' Association at (303) 623-9378.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Jim Douglas
Chair, Coalition of Northeastern Governors
Governor of Vermont



The Honorable Jim Doyle
Chair, Council of Great Lakes Governors
Governor of Wisconsin



The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
Chair, Southern States Energy Board
Governor of West Virginia



The Honorable Dave Freudenthal
Chair, Western Governors' Association
Governor of Wyoming