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COLORADO

COMMITTEES:

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ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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# United States Senate

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Honorable Joan Fitz-Gerald  
President of the Senate  
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Honorable Andy McElhany  
Senate Minority Leader  
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Honorable Andrew Romanoff  
Speaker of the House  
Colorado General Assembly  
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Honorable Alice Madden  
House Majority Leader  
Colorado General Assembly  
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Honorable Ken Gordon  
Senate Majority Leader  
Colorado General Assembly  
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Denver, Colorado 80203

Honorable Mike May  
House Minority Leader  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 E. Colfax Ave.  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Senators and Representatives:

Our state and national energy policies are at the very center of the most pressing issues we face today: national security, economic competitiveness, the vitality of our farms and ranches, and the danger of global warming. The solution to these challenges is clear: we must pursue a course toward energy independence.

America and Colorado must dedicate ourselves to the production of clean energy from renewable sources, and we must become more efficient in the way we use energy in our homes, our industries and our vehicles. I am proud to be one of the leading sponsors of a resolution in the U.S. Senate that will declare this to be our national goal: By the year 2025, America should produce 25 percent of our energy needs from our own farms, forests and ranches. Careful studies tell us that we can achieve this goal, if we will make the necessary political, financial and scientific commitment to do so.

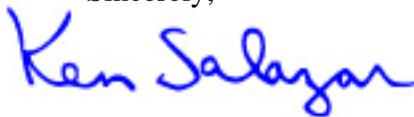
In 2004, the people of Colorado sent a message to Colorado's political leaders and to the nation: we want more renewable energy. The adoption of Amendment 37, the first set of renewable energy standards to be adopted by citizen initiative, marked a new stage in the pursuit of energy independence. Although some argued that the standards of Amendment 37 were too ambitious, the truth is that Xcel Energy will meet these standards much earlier than the deadlines required by Amendment 37. The people of Colorado set out the challenge, and Xcel and other forward thinking energy providers met and exceeded that challenge.

Now, I join with Governor Ritter to support the call to double the standards of Amendment 37 in Colorado. I want you, the leaders of the General Assembly, to know that I stand ready to assist you in creating these higher standards, and I will do all that I can to help Colorado's utilities meet these new goals. In this session of Congress, I will be working to pass national renewable energy standards and to require the implementation of new renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. I will also introduce three bills to create new tax credits and tax-free renewable energy bonds for small and mid-sized wind projects and to increase and extend tax credits for solar and fuel cell technologies.

Together, we can produce much more clean energy from wind farms in eastern Colorado, and we can increase our transmission capabilities to carry that electricity to the cities of the Front Range and to every corner of the state. We can produce much more electricity from the power of the sun, and the National Renewable Energy Lab, based in Golden, is leading America and the world in that effort. And we can produce billions of gallons of ethanol from corn and corn stalks and biodiesel from beans, seeds and woodchips, all from Colorado's farms and forests, to fuel our vehicles.

Amendment 37 set out a vision of Colorado powered by clean and renewable resources. Let us work together to achieve that vision. Let us work together to make Colorado the nation's leader of a new energy economy, to make America more secure and more competitive, to provide a new day for our America's farms and ranches, and to protect the health of our planet for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,



Ken Salazar  
United States Senator

Copies:

Honorable Bill Ritter, Governor  
Ronald J. Binz, Chairman, Colorado Public Utilities Commission  
Richard C. Kelly, Chairman, Xcel Energy  
Patricia K. Vincent, President, Public Service Company of Colorado