




**National Rural Electric
Cooperative Association**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Glenn English
Chief Executive Officer

February 2, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Inouye, Chairman
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Vice Chairman
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Byron Dorgan, Chairman
The Honorable Robert Bennett
Energy & Water Development Subcommittee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

On behalf of 930 electric co-ops serving 42 million consumers in 47 states, thank you for increasing to \$50 billion the authorization for loans for environmentally advanced technologies under the Department of Energy's (DOE) Loan Guarantee program.

The electric cooperative sector, which serves 12 percent of the population, is growing at twice the rate of the other utility sectors. The U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasts that by 2030, demand for electricity will be 30 percent higher, the equivalent of adding four Californias to the power grid. In some regions, demand will soon outstrip supply, according to the North America Electric Reliability Corporation.

At the same time electric cooperatives are meeting these demands, we are deploying technologies that will help to meet greenhouse gas reduction goals. Renewable resources, technologies to capture and store carbon from coal plants and nuclear energy are all equally important to meeting demand and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. These technologies must all be made available in order to fulfill our mission of providing affordable and reliable electricity, and to modernize the nation's infrastructure.

The Loan Guarantee program is more important than ever in this time of scarce lending. Despite the fact that the program has been underfunded, electric cooperatives have pending applications to finance nuclear projects. Those projects are already creating jobs that will ramp up in the near term. Electric cooperatives have also initiated millions of dollars in renewable electricity projects under the Clean Renewable Energy Bond program, have been recognized by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as

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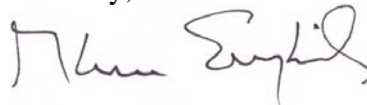
February 2, 2009

Page 2

leaders in deploying “smart meters” and are demonstrating carbon capture technologies. Cooperatives are working in all of these areas because no stone can be left unturned to meet increasing demand for electricity and environmental goals.

Thank you for your recognition of the critical role of the DOE Loan Guarantee program in our energy future. Please do not hesitate to call on me or my staff should you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn English". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "G".

Glenn English