

1 COMMITTEE: Agriculture and Energy
2 POLICY: Renewable Energy Standard
3 TYPE OF POLICY: Existing

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5 In the absence of federal legislation establishing a renewable energy standard, also known
6 as a renewable portfolio standard, states have led the way in this policy arena. Over half of
7 the States already have in place a version of a renewable standard, and many of these
8 standards have been active for numerous years. These standards have been developed by
9 state legislative and regulatory action that incorporates a wide range of concerns, including
10 but not limited to resource availability, geographic constraints, and associated environmental
11 and economic needs of the particular state and area.

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13 The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) encourages the Federal government
14 to consult with the States with regards to the development of a national renewable portfolio
15 standard. In addition, NCSL urges that any national policy that may be adopted build on the
16 existing structure of state standards and regional trading markets and not undermine them. If
17 a national policy regarding renewable portfolio standards is adopted, it should be developed
18 in consultation with state elected officials and their national representative organizations, and
19 it should recognize that each state has different characteristics, resources, abilities and
20 constraints. Renewable energy should not be approached as a one-size-fits-all policy, and
21 NCSL urges the federal government to not pre-empt the work of the States, and to not restrict
22 the progress States can make.

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24 NCSL recommends that:

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- 26 • Federal action should be flexible, allowing for a range of complementary strategies at
27 the state and federal level maintaining a strong role for state government in any
28 federal action.
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- 30 • Federal legislation should provide states the authority and flexibility to work within a
31 overall framework that affords states the ability to chose from a range of options &

32 apply the law effectively in the most cost effective, timely and efficient manner for each
33 state.

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35 • Federal legislation should not preempt state governments from enacting stricter or
36 stronger measures within their jurisdiction.

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38 • Congress must authorize and appropriate sufficient funds for state and federal
39 governments to implement any federal legislation. These funds should be newly
40 authorized appropriations, not reprogrammed resources.

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