

1 COMMITTEE: Agriculture and Energy
2 POLICY: Fundamental Support Necessary to Ensure a Secure &
3 Sustainable Energy Future
4 TYPE OF POLICY: Existing
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6 National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) is distressed by the current state of affairs
7 that the United States finds itself in with regards to energy policy and financial stability. As
8 State elected officials we believe it is well past time for a change in the direction at the
9 national level. In particular, the NCSL is concerned that;

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- 11 • The lack of Congressional and Presidential leadership over the past three decades
12 has placed America in a very precarious position with respect to national energy
13 security and the resultant financial stability.
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- 15 • Effective policies and solutions are stifled by the constant failure of the Congress and
16 current and past administrations to cooperate and seek solutions that are both
17 effective and productive.
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- 19 • Individual states are working to address energy issues at the state level but a
20 comprehensive national strategy is necessary to address the myriad of energy issues
21 that plague this country.
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- 23 • It is imperative that Washington, D.C. turn to the issues at hand and work to effectively
24 solve the energy issues faced by all of our constituents.

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26 In order to reverse course and begin to address these issues the NCSL urges Congress and
27 the Administration to act without delay to reestablish a sound foundation for national energy
28 policy given the important and integral role of energy in all facets of modern life. By providing
29 the necessary and fundamental support for programs key to a secure and sustainable energy
30 future, the nation will at the same time be ensuring the resilience of our domestic economy
31 and the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy.

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The NCSL believes a considerable effort needs to be undertaken at the federal level in partnership with state, local and tribal governments to advance action that moves us closer to our ultimate goal of a secure and sustainable energy future. To that end NCSL urges action by Congress and the Administration:

- To promote enhanced efficiency and conservation in the use of our energy resources;
- To promote a diversified national energy portfolio that would reduce our reliance on a limited number of energy sources;
- Encourage and assist in the development of enhanced oil and gas refining capacity and technology;
- Support domestic energy production and reduce imports;
- Regularly reviews and updates CAFE standards;
- To accelerate research and development of advanced clean energy technologies;
- To promote the development of an infrastructure to support the distribution of clean energy technologies;
- To ensure energy resources are used in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner;
- To support investment in the national academic and job training systems in order to advance science and engineering curricula and ensure a trained workforce exists to accomplish the necessary research and development of advanced clean energy technologies;

- 63 • To support both basic and advanced science education that would provide a
64 foundation for tomorrow's workforce and reverse the decline in well-qualified entrants
65 into the domestic energy economy;
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- 67 • To address the limitations of the visa system that restricts entry to the United states of
68 leading scientists and engineers from around the world; and

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70 To address the capital, material and labor deficiencies affecting our ability to manufacture
71 and deploy advanced clean energy technologies.

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73 **National Energy Strategy: Roadmap to the Future**

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75 The NCSL acknowledges and applauds the enormous amount of work the states have
76 devoted to developing comprehensive energy policies to date. However, to fully secure the
77 further benefits that only a national energy policy can ensure, NCSL urges Congress to direct
78 the U.S. Department of Energy through the national laboratories and technology centers to
79 develop a national energy strategy for moving the United States toward independence from
80 non-North American energy sources. The development of this strategy should be done in
81 partnership with state governments and universities to leverage the work which has already
82 been done to develop comprehensive state energy strategies. The national energy strategy
83 should encompass short, medium and long-term goals designed to enable the nation to
84 transition from current energy production and use patterns to a more secure and financially
85 stable future configuration that is drastically more independent of non-North American energy
86 sources.

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