



## Blue Dog Coalition

### Renewable Portfolio Standard

*111<sup>th</sup> Session of Congress*

Renewable energy is an important component of long term energy security. The solution to ensuring fuel diversity is encouraging the development of sustainable sources of energy. Federal policy should adhere to the following guidelines:

**1. Achievable Targets:** Unrealistic targets for renewable energy development will not help electric utilities deploy renewables more quickly. Only 2.8% of electricity generation in the U.S. in 2007 came from non-hydropower renewable sources. Setting achievable targets that include energy efficiency is an effective way to broaden energy source diversity and to reduce wasted energy.

**2. Regional Flexibility:** A one-size-fits-all federal mandate for renewable energy disadvantages specific regions of the country and could result in regional wealth transfer. The standard should provide maximum flexibility to all states, in order to address regional energy production shortfalls and grid congestion. A federal RPS should allow states the option of achieving realistic regional targets for renewable and sustainable energy development, as well as transmission of renewable energy.

**3. Diverse Fuel Sources:** A federal standard should allow for the participation of low-carbon energy sources, including nuclear, clean coal, biomass, hydropower, and waste heat.

- Nuclear power is a sustainable, carbon-free energy source which requires a viable, science-based national strategy to manage nuclear waste.
- Low or zero-emission coal can provide baseload power generation without dramatically increasing costs in some regions of the country.
- A renewable biomass definition should be broad to allow public lands, agricultural producers, and private forest landowners in all regions of the country to participate in the new energy economy and contribute to the sustainable production of renewable energy.