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**CC:** 'Michelle Wyman'

**Subject:** Governors Accord Call, Summary & Next Steps

**Attachments:** AccordActionItems (10-19-15).docx; Governors'EnergyAccordFinal.docx

Colleagues-

Thank you for making the time to join the call last Friday on the Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future. As we discussed, we are looking for feedback on the following items by Friday, October 30:

- feedback on the language of Accord (attached)
- feedback on the shortlist of proposed action items post-announcement (attached)
- confirmation that your governor will participate in the Accord
- 2 points of contact designated by each state for the Accord work going forward
- feedback from each state on dates for the Accord announcement (preferably either January 4 or 5, 2016)

Please also let Michelle or me know if you have suggestions or ideas for additional outreach to states (e.g., on the call Hawaii offered to introduce the Accord to Alaska) or if you want to discuss anything else,

Best,  
Cliff

# GOVERNORS' ACCORD FOR A NEW ENERGY FUTURE

## Proposed Action Items Post-Announcement

The following action items reflect input from the Accord states and are a blend of policy, analysis and resource development to serve the states' interests and priorities.

- Quantify economic benefits and opportunities from states' clean energy and infrastructure investments. Using standard economic tools and with the right technical partner, Accord states could pursue state-level modeling of specific infrastructure and clean energy investments to project impacts to employment, GDP and household income. Track workforce development trends in Accord states specifically skills and training that support clean energy work/markets.
- Shape technical assistance, funding and research to states to better support states' energy pathways toward the Accord's common principles; engage proactively with Federal agencies, select industry and financial sectors, philanthropy and research institutes to accelerate states' energy work.
- Engage states in 'utility of the future' discussions possibly including convening with key utility sector stakeholders on a range of topics e.g., energy storage, increased capacity for renewable energy, status of current energy systems, resilience, etc.
- Review Accord states energy policies or plans and identify areas of mutual focus on energy issues and opportunities across states' for collaboration.
- Convene states for sharing and learning best practices and programs for financing development and deployment of renewable energy, efficiency, and smart grid and energy storage technologies in the electricity grid.
- Examine effective state transportation policies that promote alternative-fuels and alternative-fueled vehicles, including regional partnerships like the West Coast Electric Highway, national freight efficiency or plug-in electric vehicle infrastructure work.
- Support the modernization of the nation's electrical grid. Identify Federal policies and investments to improve transmission and distribution infrastructure that further state energy goals, and help each other build our own in-state capacity to improve our energy grids.

# GOVERNORS' ACCORD FOR A NEW ENERGY FUTURE

American prosperity has always depended on embracing new ideas and technologies. By deploying cleaner and more efficient energy solutions, we can make our national economy more productive and resilient. These technologies help to diversify energy sources that power our economy and reduce dependence on foreign energy sources while securing abundant, domestically produced electricity. Embracing these new energy solutions also modernizes our infrastructure and transportation systems, decreases air pollution, and supports the growth of innovative American companies.

Current challenges also demand these new energy solutions. Increased intensity and frequency of floods, droughts, wildfires and sea-level rise threaten electric reliability and economic development, likely impacting our communities, industries, agricultural production and trillions of dollars of assets. This demands that we diversify our energy portfolios and build more durable, safe and resilient infrastructure. Embracing new energy solutions allows us to expand our economy while protecting the health of our communities and natural resources. These improvements will help secure a safe and prosperous future for our country.

We recognize that now is the time to embrace a bold vision of the nation's energy future, and to do so, states are once again poised to lead. We join together, despite unique opportunities and challenges in each state, to embrace a shared vision of this future:

## ***Our states will diversify energy generation and expand clean energy sources.***

Expanding energy efficiency and renewable energy in a cost-effective way strengthens our states' economic productivity, reduces air pollution and avoids energy waste. Integrating more of these clean energy sources into our electricity grids can also improve the flexibility and stability of these grids. Promoting energy savings through efficiency and conservation programs is the fastest, most reliable and often cheapest way to meet our energy needs. Technologies that capture solar, wind and geothermal power have become viable and cost-effective to integrate into our states' energy portfolios in many cases. These technologies are already providing energy to millions of Americans while reducing energy waste and air pollution. Amidst decreasing costs of renewable energy, and rapid advances in efficiency throughout entire energy systems, our states will diversify our energy portfolios for economic, health and environmental benefits.

## ***Our states will modernize energy infrastructure.***

Modern distribution and transmission grids are required to give consumers more control over their own energy use, increase electricity reliability, and integrate more renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies into our energy systems. Utilities in our states need to update electrical grids to have the technical capacity and "intelligence" to support many types of energy sources and services in a safe and cost-effective way. These grid improvements will allow utilities and consumers to manage electricity flexibly and efficiently.

## ***Our states will encourage clean transportation options.***

Hundreds of thousands of electric vehicles are driving on American roads, and fuels such as natural gas, biofuel and hydrogen are increasingly available to power vehicles. Supporting automakers' and fueling companies' market expansion for these new vehicles and fuels expands consumer choice, lessens dependence on petroleum and reduces pollution. By supporting needed infrastructure development and incentives when appropriate, our states will encourage expanded use of these new technologies.

***Our states will plan for this energy transition.***

Given the complexity of statewide energy systems and the scale of modernizing these systems, many states have developed energy plans and strategies to implement energy improvements. These approaches have incorporated best practices and lessons-learned from new technologies, other states' energy policies, consumer programs, and workforce training efforts. These state-by-state approaches enable each state to meet benchmarks it sets for itself in areas such as energy diversification, reduced energy waste, improved air and water, and economic performance. Our states will support each other in developing, refining and implementing these plans through sharing expertise among our policy experts.

***Our states will work together to make these transformational policy changes.***

Our states are already transforming energy and transportation to be cleaner, more efficient, and more resilient. Many actions taking place in one state can be adapted to meet the needs of other states and scaled across regions. Examples include streamlining siting of environmentally-desirable infrastructure, setting renewable and energy efficiency standards, adopting incentives for clean vehicles, and diversifying energy portfolios to integrate peak shaving, efficiency and renewable energy into a state's energy mix. Building on current efforts, our states will help each other reach shared energy and transportation objectives. This collaboration will be advanced through periodic meetings and technical convenings of our states.

***Our states will help secure a stronger national energy future.***

Given the unique energy portfolio and regulatory framework of each state, Governors are uniquely positioned to drive lasting improvements to our country's energy system. Federal agencies such as the United States Department of Energy lend technical expertise, provide funding, and enable research and development that can help our states make energy improvements. In order to provide effective support, federal agencies must work closely with states to tailor technical support, funding and research to the needs of each state and avoid presupposing the best types of assistance. Strong partnerships among our states and between our states and the federal government will improve our country in the decades to come.