

**From:** Michelle Wyman [michelle@governorsnewenergyfuture.org]

**Sent:** Monday, February 15, 2016 6:10 PM

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**Subject:** Confirming Feb. 16 for Accord Announcement Process (details and attachments)

**Attachments:** State Accord Release Template2.12.docx; ATT00001.htm; Govs Accord FAQs 2.12.docx; ATT00002.htm; Govs Accord TPs 2.12.docx; ATT00003.htm; Governors' Energy Accord0216.pdf; ATT00004.htm

Colleagues-

Today the Accord Communications Working Group agreed to move forward with the announcement of the Accord tomorrow. To that end, I have sent out a national news advisory to key national energy reporters. The Governors' offices whose Governors are participating in the call tomorrow at 1 pm ET have sent out state media advisories.

For your reference in preparation for tomorrow, attached please find:

- state press release template
- FAQs
- Talking Points
- Final copy of the Accord (tomorrow I will send you all the final Accord copy with all of the Governors' signatures)

**The rollout schedule tomorrow, February 16, is:**

**10:00 am PT/1:00 pm ET:** Hold National Press Call (Governors)  
Send National Press Release (Michelle)  
Send State Press Releases (individual Accord states' communications teams)  
Accord website goes live (Michelle)

Tomorrow morning I will send around the dial-in information for the national press call in case any of you want to dial in to listen. Please don't hesitate to call if you have questions.

Thank you,  
Michelle

**DO NOT DISTRIBUTE UNTIL 1:00 P.M. ET ON FEBRUARY 16, 2016**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 16, 2016**

*Contact: Jane Doe  
Governor XX Press Office  
Phone Number*

**Gov. <insert name> Joins Bipartisan Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future**

**Washington DC** – Governor X today joined with a bipartisan group of 17 governors to announce the [Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future](#) - a joint commitment to take action to promote clean energy, clean transportation choices and a modern electrical grid.

The Accord provides participating governors – a bipartisan coalition together representing 127 million Americans – with a platform through which their states will collaborate, learn from one another, and leverage partnerships in energy planning and policymaking.

(<Insert Gov. X statement>)

“American prosperity has always depended on embracing new ideas and technologies,” states the *Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future*. “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.”

Democratic and Republican signatories to the Accord commit that their states will continue to diversify energy generation and expand clean energy sources, modernize energy infrastructure, and encourage clean transportation options. The seventeen participating governors represent states that vary considerably in their energy mix and policy portfolios. However, these governors have committed to working together to make transformational policy changes to secure a stronger energy future for their states and the nation.

Senior advisors to participating governors will convene shortly to discuss initial steps to pursue their shared priorities and commitments contained in the Accord.

Click here to access the full text of the [Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future](#).

Click here to view [statements](#) from each governor participating in the Accord.

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*Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future – Responses to FAQs*  
*For internal use only – February 16, 2016*

- **What will the Accord do?**  
The work will begin immediately following the announcement of the Accord. Participating governors offices have been working together to develop specific initial action items on which their states will collaborate to achieve their shared priorities. Governors' senior advisors will meet shortly after launching the Accord.
- **How many governors are part of the Accord?**  
Seventeen governors announced the Accord on February 16, 2016. Any governor can participate in the Accord, the initiative is open to all governors.
- **How much will it cost each state?:**  
There is no cost for states to be a part of the Accord. Governors' offices are expected to participate through engagement of senior advisors and state agency officials. Among the anticipated benefit for states is the creation of new partnerships and the opportunity to leverage additional policymaking expertise to support their ongoing energy planning.
- **What will states be required to do?:**  
The Accord is a collaborative, voluntary agreement through which governors will work together to advance shared priorities. The Accord is not a binding legal document.
- **What was the main impetus for the Accord?**  
Governors from both parties recognized the opportunity to work together to achieve goals that they share in energy policy. They wanted to establish a collaborative, bipartisan platform in pursuit of the best interests of their states, including strengthening their economies, protecting public health and natural resources, and increasing energy security.
- **What is the Accord's position on (nuclear/coal/oil/gas/solar/wind/hydro/etc)?**  
The Accord is not designed to promote any particular energy technologies. The progress of some energy technologies is acknowledged in the text. Governors must take a holistic approach to energy planning and policymaking, and each state's resources and opportunities are unique. Governors participating in the Accord have recognized the benefits of diversifying their energy systems, expanding energy efficiency and renewable energy, and promoting clean transportation options.
- **How will the Accord work with the federal government?**  
The Accord is focused on building upon states' long-standing leadership advancing clean energy. Accord governors anticipate working together to find ways to improve the way that the federal government can support state energy planning, and federal policies that support the goals of the Accord.

- **How does the Accord relate to the EPA’s Clean Power Plan?**  
It doesn’t. The Governors’ Accord is a state-led initiative that builds upon years of state leadership promoting cleaner and more efficient energy technologies.
- **What is the Accord’s position on (U.S. House or Senate energy legislation)?**  
The Accord does not take a position on any current federal legislation or policy.
- **What does the Accord think about (presidential candidate X’s) energy policy?**  
The Accord does not take a position on any presidential candidates’ policy platforms.
- **Does the Accord have dedicated staff?**  
The Accord is currently supported by a small, independent staff. This staff reports to participating governors’ offices, and assists in the administration of the Accord and convening the participants. The agenda and implementation of the Accord are driven directly by governors and their senior advisors.
- **How is the Accord different than the Governors Wind & Solar Energy Coalition or other organizations?**  
The Accord is an independent effort led by participating Governors. The Accord is not related to the Governors Wind & Solar Energy Coalition, although a number of Accord governors are also members of that Coalition. That Coalition does important work, but is focused primarily on advocacy on federal policy issues.
- **What is the Accord’s connection to the National Governors Association (NGA)?**  
The Accord is not connected to the NGA. However, in pursuing the goals of the Accord, governors look forward to working with a broad range of organizations that support state-level energy planning and policymaking.



***Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future - Talking Points***  
*For internal use only – February 16, 2016*

- The *Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future* is a bipartisan initiative led by 17 governors who have recognized the opportunity to further their states' leadership in clean energy through collaboration.
- States across the country have long been leaders in promoting advanced and efficient energy technologies. Governors are positioned to embrace new energy solutions to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for their states.
- Through the Accord, governors commit that their states will continue to:
  - diversify energy generation and expand clean energy sources;
  - encourage clean transportation options;
  - plan for an energy transition and work together to make transformational policy changes; and
  - work together to secure a stronger national energy future.
- By deploying cleaner and more efficient energy solutions, governors can make their states' economies more productive and resilient, modernize infrastructure and transportation systems, decrease air pollution, reduce dependence on foreign energy sources, and support the growth of innovative American businesses.
- Our state has accomplished... (*insert state-specific reference on clean energy policies the state has enacted or the growth of renewable energy/energy efficiency/electric vehicles/etc*).
- The Accord provides a bipartisan platform for states to engage with each other in policy and technical exchanges, share best practices and lessons learned, and leverage new partnerships to achieve their shared priorities.
- Each state's energy needs and resources are unique; however Accord governors have recognized that they can achieve meaningful progress on shared priorities by working together.
- Democratic and Republican governors from different regions across the country are participating in the Accord. It is hoped that additional governors will join the Accord in the future.
- The governors' advisors will meet soon to discuss initial steps to implement their shared priorities and commitments contained in the Accord.



## GOVERNORS' ACCORD FOR A NEW ENERGY FUTURE

American prosperity has always depended on embracing new ideas and technologies. By deploying renewable, 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. Extreme weather events, such as floods, droughts, wildfires and sea-level rise, can negatively impact electric reliability and the economy. Embracing new energy solutions can provide more durable and resilient infrastructure, and enable economic growth, 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, hydroelectric and geothermal power have become viable and cost-effective to integrate into our states' energy portfolios. 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. Electrical grid improvements, advanced in a cost-effective way, can empower utilities and consumers to manage electricity flexibly and efficiently.

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

Hundreds of thousands of electric vehicles, and tens of millions of vehicles using alternative fuels, are driving on American roads, and fuels such as natural gas, biofuels 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, incentives and policies when appropriate, our states will encourage expanded use of these new technologies.

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

Given the complexity of state-wide 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 fuels, 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 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.

