

From: Gray, Laura [Laura.Gray@vermont.gov]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2015 10:15 AM
To: Springer, Darren
Subject: Gov. Energy Accord
Attachments: AccordTPsApril2015.docx; Draft Governor's Energy Accord (09-21-15).docx

The TPs are high-level, good overview.

If Patrick seems interested, the turnaround is fairly quick. We are trying to finalize list of states. Have a number of Republican governors who have already committed.

Thank you!

Talking Points for the Governors' Accord for a New Energy Future

- Governor-led effort to highlight the leadership, existing work and priority by governors to plan for a new energy future.
- The Accord seeks to engage bipartisan participation by governors representing all regions in the United States.
- The Accord is a voluntary, nonbinding leadership initiative that aims to highlight existing energy achievements by governors across the US; to drive more interstate collaboration on energy issues, policies and action; and to spur increased resources from federal agencies including funding and technical assistance to support states pursuing advanced energy planning.
- The Accord remains in draft form as it is being socialized among governors. Input to content is invited and integrated into the draft as possible.
- By working together, governors can plan for a new energy future that is tailored to each state however shows leadership and builds upon existing investments, policies and programs already in place in states.
- Top commitments in the Accord are to:
 1. diversify energy portfolios including energy efficiency and renewable energy sources
 2. coordinate on development (or updating of) comprehensive energy plans for each participating state
 3. build strong platforms for exchange of best practices between states and also to leverage technical assistance and resources from the Federal government
- To date, five governors have led the effort.
- This effort remains close hold for now as we engage governors.
- Hope to launch early June 2015.
- Point of contact for additional info is Michelle Wyman. She can provide more detail including latest draft of the Accord.

Michelle's Contact Info

Director, Governors' Clean Energy Initiative

Land: 202-624-5273

Cell: 510-331-0441

wyman.michelle@gmail.com

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 communities, industries, agricultural production and trillions of dollars of assets. This new reality 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 changes 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 clean energy in a cost-effective way contributes to our states' economies, reduces air pollution and avoids energy waste. While fossil fuels help to power our economies, building our energy systems in ways that reduce dependence on fossil fuel will make our economies stronger, more efficient, and stable. Promoting energy savings through efficiency 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 energy generation portfolios. These technologies are already providing energy to millions of Americans while reducing energy waste and air pollution. With the falling costs of renewable energy options, and rapid advances in efficiency throughout the entire energy system, states can diversify their energy portfolios for economic and environmental benefits.

Our states will modernize energy infrastructure.

Modern distribution and transmission grids are required to integrate more renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies into our energy systems. Utilities need to update electrical systems to be adequately "intelligent" in order to integrate many types of energy sources in a safe and cost-effective way, and manage electricity flexibly and efficiently. Enhancing energy grids also enables the integration of new technologies that allow consumers greater control over their own energy use.

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. Supporting needed infrastructure development and incentives where appropriate will encourage expanded use of these new technologies.

Our states will develop comprehensive energy plans to manage this energy transition.

Comprehensive energy plans will set our states on pathways to meet these ambitious objectives. These plans must be customized to the challenges and opportunities faced by each of our states. At the same time, these plans will incorporate shared best practices and lessons-learned from these new technologies, state energy policies, consumer programs, and workforce training. Our states will craft and update these long-term energy plans, and then report progress guided by benchmarks that include energy diversification, reduced energy waste, improved air and water and economic performance.

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 of these actions taking place in each state can be replicated in other states and scaled across regions. Examples include setting renewable and energy efficiency standards, adopting low-emission vehicle and low-carbon fuel standards, and diversifying energy portfolios to integrate 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 have technical expertise and funding that can help these state actions. In order to provide effective support, federal agencies must work closely with states to tailor technical support and funding to the needs of each state. Strong partnerships among our states and between the states and the federal government will improve our country in the decades to come.