

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 4, 2013

Dear Reader:

America's energy and natural resource policies must be re-imagined as we move toward the year 2020. Dramatic changes have taken place in global and national economic conditions. There is a heightened awareness of our energy production and consumption which moves us toward greater environmental responsibility. America's energy infrastructure has aged, the price of oil is high, and the challenge of ensuring reliable and secure energy supplies has never been greater.

This document is meant to begin a conversation about where energy and natural resource policies should go over the next few years. It is intended as a blueprint for discussion, not an "energy plan" in and of itself. The work of renewing these policies requires cooperation between the President and a new Congress. We should strive to do this together, starting today, through discrete bills and targeted oversight that proceed from a shared understanding of the facts.

I believe there is a consensus that it is in our national interest to make energy *abundant, affordable, clean, diverse, and secure*. Our challenge is to align federal policy with that consensus. This document includes ideas to do so under seven headings: producing more, consuming less, clean energy technology, energy delivery infrastructure, effective government, environmental responsibility, and "an energy policy that pays for itself."

Abundant energy is possible, and there are already many signs of it becoming a reality as technological breakthroughs have lowered the cost of producing previously uneconomic supplies. Affordable energy is vital to our economic well-being, and a prudent balancing of energy production with proper standards for environmental regulation is more pressing than ever. Our nation is too often hamstrung by burdensome regulations, delayed permits, and overzealous litigation. This can render projects uneconomic by attrition and prevent timely, efficient, and urgently-needed investments in energy supply and conservation.

Nevertheless, the future is bright. New technologies are making clean energy – those sources with less environmental impact than their most likely alternative – increasingly competitive and enabling energy efficiency to continue to improve. Throughout the economy, diversification of energy and natural resource supplies is apparent. As alternative fuels like electricity and natural gas take hold in the transportation sector, we can expect this trend to

continue. And the need to have more secure supplies is beginning to influence consensus about additional steps that can and should be taken to renew our energy and natural resource policies.

Modern federal energy and natural resource policies will add to these trends, in part by removing roadblocks erected by the outdated approaches they can replace. And we must continue to fund and consider increasing funding for the scientific research critical to continued progress. Only basic and rigorous research will produce the dramatic breakthroughs we need to reach a future in which clean energy and energy independence are more than just slogans.

If we make the right choices today and accomplish by 2020 the goals delineated here, I believe we can secure a future in which energy and natural resources are affordable and abundant from secure and diverse sources; the air and water are cleaner in our own country and around the world; and Americans enjoy a healthy economy and preserve their ability to live and "to pursue happiness."

Thank you for your interest in energy policy and for your active engagement on these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Murkowski", is positioned above the printed name.

Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator