



## Press Release

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### Senate Energy Step But More Urgently Needed

Washington, DC—The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) today commended Senate passage of an Energy Bill which contains important provisions for improving Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFÉ) standards for the first time in 32 years, along with key provisions which create new efficiency standards for an array of consumer products from light bulbs to new buildings. The bill also substantially increases the Renewable Fuel Standard, calling for the production of 36 billion gallons of renewable fuels by 2022— defined as fuels derived from renewable biomass that achieve at least a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions relative to gasoline or diesel, as determined by a “cradle-to-grave” lifecycle analysis. Within the 36 billion gallon mandate, 21 billion gallons must come from advanced biofuels—those derived from biomass other than corn starch that achieve at least a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. There are further carve-outs within these 21 billion gallons for cellulosic biofuels and biomass-derived diesel fuels.

However, EESI also pointed out the disgrace of the lost opportunity to get the United States on the road to a sustainable energy future. “The Senate’s failure to pass an extension of tax credits for the renewable energy industries as well as the Renewable Electricity Standard (calling for 15% renewable power generation by 2020) is a major setback for the country.” said Carol Werner, EESI’s Executive Director.

“Without a long-term extension of the tax incentives for these renewable energy industries, they are unable to plan for long-term growth. Due to the market instability this creates, these industries are instead developing quickly overseas where there are the solid policies and political will to support them. This leaves the United States lagging behind many other countries in creating what could be a great manufacturing base and a source of good-paying, skilled-labor jobs,” said Werner.

The failure of the Senate to pass a national Renewable Electricity Standard also leaves the federal government lagging behind many of the states. Over half the states in the nation have passed binding Renewable Electricity Standards with several more setting renewable electricity “goals.”

“Without a serious commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy, we are ensuring that our addiction to dirty, polluting fossil fuels will continue, pushing us ever closer to the precipice with regard to global climate change,” said Werner. “What a shame for the country that the desires of the fossil fuel industry were once again put first. A serious reduction of greenhouse gases will not come without support for the industries and technologies that have the capability right *now* to drastically alter our carbon output and thus our collective future.”

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