



March 9, 2012

Senator Jeff Bingaman
Chairman, Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
SD 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Ski Industry Support for S. 2146

Dear Senator Bingaman:

We are writing to express our support for your Clean Energy Standard (CES) legislation, S.2146. **Eighty-one (81) ski resorts across twenty-two (22) states support the measure** as a framework for boosting the development of domestic clean energy, conserving natural resources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing the cost of energy over time, and improving our country's energy independence and national security. Ski areas support a long-term, stable policy that provides an incentive for companies to use low-carbon energy sources and helps support successful state clean energy programs already existing in 31 states.

The 81 endorsing ski resorts, listed below, are committed to raising awareness of the problem of global warming and helping apply solutions to solve it. As you know, there are plenty of good reasons for ski resorts to be concerned about climate change and its potential impacts. Apart from environmental impacts, scientific models suggest that as warming continues, we could experience decreased snowpack, warmer nights, wetter shoulder seasons, and reduced weather predictability. All of these changes affect our industry, as fewer operating days would obviously impact our bottom line, warmer nights can impact our ability to make snow, and spring rain can wash away our base at a critical time of year. We view climate change as a long-term problem, and want to implement reasonable, bi-partisan supported measures now to help solve it.

Ski areas have taken tremendous steps to reduce our own GHG emissions. New this season, the National Ski Areas Association initiated the "Climate Challenge," a voluntary program dedicated to helping participating ski areas reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and reap other benefits in their operations, such as reducing costs of energy use. Resorts who take the Challenge are required to complete a climate inventory on their resort operations, set a target for greenhouse gas reduction, and implement a new program or project annually to meet the reduction goal. Examples of some of the actions taken so far include lighting retrofits, development of on-site renewable energy including solar and wind and investment in high efficiency snowmaking equipment. Eight ski areas took up the challenge in its inaugural year: Alta Ski Area (UT), Arapahoe Basin (CO), Canyons Resort (UT), Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (WY), Jiminy Peak (MA), Mount Hood Meadows (OR), Park City Mountain Resort (UT), and Telluride Ski & Golf Resort (CO). These founding members of NSAA's Climate Challenge are listed first below as resort endorsers of your legislation. We anticipate many more resorts joining the Challenge in future years and are pleased to keep you apprised of their progress.

Apart from the Climate Challenge, ski areas across the board are developing renewable energy on site through the application of wind, solar, geothermal and micro-hydro technology. Ski areas are applying energy-efficient green building techniques, retrofitting existing facilities to save energy, replacing inefficient compressors in snowmaking operations, using alternative fuels in resort vehicle fleets, implementing anti-idling policies and providing or promoting car pooling or mass transit use by guests and employees. Ski areas are also supporting renewable energy by purchasing Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) and providing their customers the opportunity to do the same. The ski industry represents a relatively small source of greenhouse gas emissions, however, we are doing our part to set the example and unify all businesses behind the common goal of addressing the long term issue of climate change.

Please let us know if there is anything else we can do help ensure the passage of S.2146. Our contact person is Geraldine Link ((720) 963-4205 or glink@nsaa.org) at the National Ski Areas Association.

Best Regards,

“Climate Challenge” Founding Resorts

Alta Ski Area (UT)
Arapahoe Basin (CO)
Canyons (UT)
Jackson Hole Mountain Resort (WY)
Jiminy Peak (MA)
Mount Hood Meadows (OR)
Park City Mountain Resort (UT)
Telluride Ski & Golf (CO)

cc: Senator Coons
Senator Franken
Senator Sanders
Senator Mark Udall
Senator Tom Udall
Senator Whitehouse
Senator Wyden

ALASKA

Alyeska Resort

CALIFORNIA

Alpine Meadows

Bear Valley

Boreal Mountain Resort

Homewood Mountain Resort

June Mountain

Kirkwood Mountain Resort

Mammoth

Mountain High

Mt. Shasta Ski Park

Northstar California

Sierra-at-Tahoe

Soda Springs Ski Area

Squaw Valley

Sugar Bowl

COLORADO

Arapahoe Basin

Aspen Highlands

Aspen Mountain

Beaver Creek

Breckenridge

Buttermilk

Copper

Crested Butte Mountain Resort

Keystone

Snowmass

Sol Vista at Granby Ranch

Telluride Ski & Golf Resort

Vail Mountain

Winter Park

IDAHO

Lookout Pass

Schweitzer Mountain Resort

Tamarack Resort

ILLINOIS

Chestnut Mountain Resort

MAINE

Camden Snow Bowl

Shawnee Peak Ski Area

MASSACHUSETTS

Catamount Ski Area

Jiminy Peak

Wachusett Mountain Ski Area

MICHIGAN

Crystal Mountain

MINNESOTA

Lutsen Mountains

Welch Village

MONTANA

Bridger Bowl

NEVADA

Heavenly Mountain Resort

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Cranmore Mountain Resort

Gunstock Mountain Resort

Loon Mountain

Mount Sunapee

Ragged Mountain Resort

Waterville Valley

NEW MEXICO

Pajarito Mountain Ski Area

NEW YORK

Bristol Mountain

Greek Peak Mountain Resort

Hunter Mountain

Mt. Peter Ski Area

Windham Mountain

OREGON

Cooper Spur Mountain Resort

Mt. Ashland Ski Area

Mt. Bachelor

Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort

Timberline Lodge & Ski Area

PENNSYLVANIA

Elk Mountain

UTAH

Alta Ski Area

Canyons Resort

Deer Crest Private Trails

Park City Mountain Resort

VERMONT

Bromley

Killington and Pico

Okemo Mountain Resort

Smugglers' Notch

Stowe

Stratton

Sugarbush

VIRGINIA

Wintergreen Resort

WASHINGTON

49 Degrees North Mountain Resort

Mission Ridge

Stevens Pass

Summit-at-Snoqualmie

WISCONSIN

Cascade Mountain

Granite Peak at Rib Mountain State Park

WYOMING

Grand Targhee Resort

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort