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-hyrdro 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 to 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
Apline 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