

GEORGETOWN CLIMATE CENTER

Georgetown State-Federal Climate Resource Center

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Governors' Energy and Climate Coalition Calls for Action on Climate, Energy Legislation *Advocates for Active State-Federal Partnership*

The newly formed Governors' Energy and Climate Coalition, representing 30 states and territories, today pledged to work with Congress to pass legislation that will address climate change and provide the nation with a comprehensive energy strategy. The bipartisan group of Governors outlined two principles – supporting comprehensive federal policy and advocating an active state-federal partnership – which the coalition would promote “at every opportunity.”

“States are where the green economy is being built,” the Governors said, pledging to work with Congress and the Administration “to develop a strong state-federal partnership to create and preserve our jobs and industry, keep the United States competitive abroad, and at the same time address climate change threats.”

The coalition represents states from every region of the country, and will work together to inform sound state and federal climate policy. The coalition's efforts will be facilitated by the Georgetown State-Federal Climate Resource Center at Georgetown Law, which provides policy support for state and federal efforts to address climate change.

The coalition states include: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin, as well as the territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

“I am proud of Washington state's leadership in developing strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lessen our dependency on foreign oil and create thousands of green-collar jobs,” Washington Governor Chris Gregoire said. “We now have a strong partner in the other Washington. I am urging Congress and the Obama Administration to evaluate our state's successes, and develop a comprehensive energy strategy that further creates a clean energy economy. That type of federal action is overdue.”

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California said: “It is not easy to bring together such a diverse group of governors on any topic, so this coalition speaks loudly to the need to work with states and adopt a federal approach as we work toward our common energy and green economy goals.”

“Our environment and our economy depend on aggressively harnessing and promoting clean energy,” said New York Governor David A. Paterson. “A state-federal partnership that makes clean energy a priority will create jobs, keep more dollars in the U.S., and reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions into our environment. We must work together to create policies and programs that accelerate advancements in energy technology and workforce training.”

(more)

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Governor James Douglas of Vermont said: "States have been leaders on the green front – promoting renewable and clean energy, creating jobs and taking concrete steps to address climate change. The Governors' Energy and Climate Coalition is in a unique position to assist the federal government as it builds out a national energy policy that creates jobs and protects consumers and the environment. Vermont was the first state to sign on to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the nation's first cap and trade program, and I will be working to ensure that federal legislation is consistent with our RGGI goals and supports the effort of Vermont consumers who have achieved the lowest carbon footprint in the nation."

CONTACT:

Diane Derby

Georgetown State-Federal Climate Resource Center

202-494-0139