



**Leo W. Gerard**  
International President

December 12, 2007

VIA FAX

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

This week the Senate is expected to consider the "Energy Independence and Security Act". On behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers (USW), I write to urge your support for this important energy compromise.

As U.S. consumers and businesses continue to experience escalating energy costs, we commend Congress for taking action through this critical piece of legislation that will not only make our nation more energy efficient, but improve fuel economy standards for the first time in decades and provide important incentives and standards for energy efficiency and renewable fuels.

While these provisions in the bill are significant, the USW is deeply disappointed that the Renewable Electricity Standard (RES) provision was a casualty of the negotiations to pass the bill in the Senate. The RES would require large electric utilities to generate 15 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2020 and allow utilities to achieve up to four percent of this target through energy efficiency.

We strongly believe that investing in our nation's renewable energy resources is a meaningful way of addressing our commitment to solving the global warming crisis, responding to our country's national security concerns and creating U.S. jobs. A recent study completed by the Renewable Energy Policy Project indicates that an RES in the 15-20% range has the potential of creating 850,000 new jobs in component part manufacturing, and would therefore serve to revitalize many of our devastated heartland communities. For the USW and its members those numbers are not just projections, but jobs that have been created in the wind industry in once shuttered steel mills in Pennsylvania.

Again, we commend Congress for taking this important first step in placing our nation on the road to energy independence and we urge you to vote "YES" on the "Energy Independence and Security Act" when it comes to the floor.

Sincerely,

Leo W. Gerard  
International President