

June 29, 2010

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman, Chairman  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
SD-304  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member  
Senate Energy and natural Resources Committee  
SD-304  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bingaman and Senator Murkowski:

We, the undersigned organizations, urge you to support S.2900, the *Gas Turbine Efficiency Act of 2009*, introduced by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and cosponsored by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Kay Hagan (D-NC), and Bill Nelson (D-FL).

S.2900 would authorize a four-year program at the Department of Energy to establish a public-private research, development and technology demonstration program to improve the efficiency of turbines used in natural gas-fired electric power generation systems. The goals established under the bill would result in efficiency improvements in turbines used in simple and combined cycle systems to bring them to levels of 50 percent and 65 percent respectively.

We believe the program would produce technologies that would dramatically reduce the carbon footprint of existing natural gas-fired electric generating units and improve the next generation of power plants. To offer one example of the impact of turbine efficiency, if technologies developed under the proposed program resulting in a 1 percentage point efficiency improvement were deployed across the existing gas turbine fleet, it would result in CO<sub>2</sub> reductions of approximately 10 million metric tons per year. A reduction of 10 million metric tons would be the equivalent of taking nearly 2 million passenger cars off the road permanently.

The significance of this is twofold. First, gas turbines currently generate approximately 20 percent of the nation's electricity. Secondly, given the preference of electric utilities for the reduced carbon footprint of natural gas turbines, as well as the competitive cost of America's abundant natural gas supplies, this figure is expected to grow in the next decade.

Finally, S.2900 would have substantial economic and employment impacts in the United States, helping to create or maintain thousands of jobs across the country in engineering, construction, services and suppliers. The bill would help to preserve America's traditional leadership role in gas turbine innovation and bolster our exports to overseas markets.

As such, we would urge the Committee's timely and favorable consideration of S.2900.

Sincerely,

International District Energy Association

Gas Turbine Association

National Electrical Manufacturers Association

Interstate Natural Gas Association of America

American Society of Mechanical Engineers International Gas Turbine Institute

Natural Gas Supply Association

United States Clean Heat and Power Association