



State of West Virginia
Joe Manchin III
Governor

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February 3, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for meeting with governors to discuss our nation's energy policy. I know that, together, we can formulate a responsible and reasonable approach that will secure our nation's energy independence, create a cleaner environment and keep our people working.

While coal remains a dependable and affordable energy source, we must invest in the research and technology that will enable it to continue as part of our national strategy until we transition to the fuel of the future. In West Virginia we have diversified our state's energy portfolio with two progressive and historic pieces of legislation: 1) the Alternative and Renewable Energy Portfolio and 2) the Post-Mine Land Use Plan.

The Mountain State is determined to help shape our nation's future. Coal will continue to provide a reliable domestic resource to meet our energy needs until a dependable and affordable fuel of the future is brought on line. I am asking that you make available your top staff to meet with the West Virginia congressional delegation and me to discuss these issues and our ongoing regulatory concerns with EPA.

With your leadership, we can address these challenges and advance clean domestic energy sources to fuel our nation's factories, homes and vehicles. I look forward to working with you on America's energy future.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Manchin III".

Joe Manchin III
Governor