



Customers First!
Plugging Wisconsin In

Statement In Support of the Recommendations in the Final Report of the Governor's Task Force on Global Warming

The *Customers First!* Coalition (CFC) is an alliance of customer, business and labor organizations, environmental and low income groups, municipal and cooperative electric utilities and an investor owned utility. Together, the CFC works to promote public policies that preserve Wisconsin's safe, affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible electricity.

The CFC has consistently encouraged a bipartisan consensus approach in meeting Wisconsin's energy challenges. The CFC commends the Governor's Task Force on Global Warming for following an open, consensus-driven approach to develop viable, actionable policy recommendations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Wisconsin. The recommendations are contained in the Task Force's final report, *Wisconsin's Strategy for Reducing Global Warming*, issued in July 2008.

The CFC supports legislative and regulatory implementation of the Task Force recommendations together as a package. Taken as a whole, the recommendations offer a comprehensive and balanced strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in ways that mitigate costs and protect and enhance the economy. Particularly, the CFC believes the recommendations address the following priorities:

Economy-Wide Response - The CFC strongly believes that the most effective solution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions requires the participation of all sectors of our economy. Electricity customers should not have to disproportionately bear the burden of this enormous challenge. Therefore, climate change legislation must include the emission reduction strategies

recommended by the Task Force that are not only targeted towards the power sector, but also the transportation, manufacturing, agriculture and forestry sectors.

Inclusive and Balanced Strategies - The Task Force appropriately recognized that a comprehensive and balanced approach is critical to achieve greenhouse gas emission reductions without undue harm to the state's economy and citizens. The CFC agrees, and calls for climate change legislation and regulatory policies that include all the diverse recommendations proposed by the Task Force. Legislation that advances only certain recommendations could jeopardize the broad support for climate change legislation and harm the cost effectiveness of the emission reduction measures.*

Cost Concerns - The CFC commends the Task Force for its emphasis on cost mitigation. Many of the near-term recommendations, such as increased conservation and efficiency, and enhanced building codes and appliance standards, are important least-cost action strategies that provide the foundation for the success of many other Task Force recommendations. The CFC is committed to working with policy makers and stakeholders to enact climate change policies that ensure reasonably priced energy for customers.

The issue of climate change is important and will transform the energy industry. As our state and nation moves forward to meet this challenge, it is imperative that we do so with clear objectives based firmly on what's achievable and affordable for consumers. The package of recommendations offered by the Governor's Task Force on Global Warming deserves support.

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*The CFC recognizes and accepts that wind siting reform has received consideration by the Legislature separate from the package of recommendations offered by the Task Force. Wind siting legislation was developed, discussed, and introduced in the Legislature prior to the completion of the Task Force's report and recommendations.

(Approved by the CFC Board of Directors August 11, 2009)