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Senator Ron Wyden
700 NE Multnomah St., Suite 450
Portland, OR 97232

Senator Gordon Smith
121 SW Salmon St., Suite 1250
Portland, OR 97204

re: Request to consider sponsoring legislation - for energy independence.

Dear Senators Smith and Wyden,

I believe in a strong America. Strong in the sense of creating high-paying jobs, increasing standards of living, and economic world leadership. We can accomplish this by investing in America - to become *the* source for the future energy needs of the world. I also believe that we possess the resources and talents necessary to enable the United States to become a net-exporter of renewable energy.

Since the first oil shock in 1973, the net result of all our efforts is - we went from being 25% dependent on foreign oil to over 60% dependent today. And it is getting worse. In 1973, Denmark was 98% reliant on foreign oil. It was the "frog in the boiling water that jumped out." Now, it is a net-exporter of renewable energy. Why? It made a bold decision, then funded that decision - to get out of the boiling water.

Over the past 32 years, we - as a nation - *have not made the bold decisions nor marshaled the national resources required for such leadership* - to change the direction of our fossil fuel addiction. We have been the "frog in luke-warm water," and have remained there, while the temperature has been slowly raised to the boiling point!

This nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, within the next 20 years, of becoming a "net-exporter" of renewable energy. This goal is more impressive than a moonshot, certainly more useful than a "mission to Mars," and of more peaceful value than the Manhattan Project. Positioning the United States to become the ultimate controller of (renewable) energy will do more to create jobs, increase our security, reduce the need to go to war, enhance our economy while improving our environment - and will secure our future as *the* world economic leader - for decades to come.

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It is clear that a bold bipartisan solution - that leverages *both* the federal government's and industries' capabilities - is required. No single party can "own" the solution. Nor can the government alone, nor businesses alone solve this increasing problem.

Although there are other initiatives, they either have not yet been successful (Many DoE programs), or are too partisan. We cannot continue doing the same things - and expect different results!

I have developed a high-level plan-of-action that could yield significant results in the next two decades. While no plan can guarantee that we shall one day succeed, we can guarantee that any further neglect to make this effort will make us fail.

If you are open to entertaining bold notions and are interested in how we can become a net-exporter of renewable energy, I am attaching an overview and an Executive Summary for an "Energy Independence Fund." Specifics on its use, operation, and how to fund it can be found therein. More specifics can be found at www.energy2025.com.

I implore our Senators from the Great State of Oregon to - together - instigate the steps necessary to solve this long-standing problem for our selves, our children and our grandchildren. And although it appears that this year's legislation is close to being "done," now is the best time to make any bold initiative - that will move us towards the right "market-driven, Government-supported" solution.

I would be pleased to discuss this further with you.

Thank you very much for your time.

Best regards,

Mark Paul
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PS: I believe that bold leadership is required to make this a national priority. This requires bipartisan support in order for the necessary to move forward