



Press Release

Congressman Jay Inslee and World Future Council: Feed-in Tariffs the best solution to climate/energy crisis

World's most effective renewables policy presented at WIREC

Washington DC, 6th March 2008.

At the Washington International Renewable Energy Conference (WIREC), Bianca Jagger, Chair of The World Future Council, said *"The threat of a global climate disaster is no longer up for debate. If we do not take decisive action before 2012 it will be too late. World leaders of the wealthiest industrialized nations have a moral obligation to embark upon an immediate renewable energy revolution, to bring a swift end to the burning of fossil fuels. This does not endorse non-sustainable nuclear, or problematic biofuel technologies. The World Future Council welcomes the new efforts in the United States to begin this energy transition."*

Congressman Jay Inslee, together with the World Future Council (WFC), today presented concrete measures which would lead to a massive increase in renewable energy use across the United States. In a WFC event at WIREC, Congressman Inslee made concrete proposals for the adoption of the Feed-in Tariff system (FIT) in the US.

Congressman Jay Inslee said *"Americans who produce electricity from capital investments in clean energy technologies will play a key role in any comprehensive plan to drastically reduce U.S. greenhouse-gas emissions, guaranteeing grid interconnection, plus a reliable return on these investments should be part of our nation's New Apollo Project, aimed at accomplishing for clean energy what Kennedy did for space in the 1960s."*

Congressman Inslee today became the first member of Congress to introduce so-called feed-in tariff legislation, under the "Clean Energy Buy-Back Act." It would chiefly guarantee interconnection to the grid for Americans who generate their own clean electricity, and a long-term contract for a utility to purchase that electricity at a premium rate. Senator Bernie Sanders is expected to introduce a companion measure in the Senate.

Feed-in tariffs, now implemented in over 45 countries and regions around the world, including Spain and Germany, are proven to provide the lowest cost, fastest deployment of renewable energy across all technologies and scales.

According to the German Environment Ministry, 200,000 new jobs have been created in Germany since 1999 as a direct consequence of the Feed-in Tariff Law. And the country has developed a world-beating renewables industry through its FIT. It has shown that renewable energy development can make very rapid progress – in the last few years it has added renewable energy capacity equivalent to two nuclear power stations a year to the national energy system.

The measures focussing on the US presented at the WIREC convention could be adopted immediately, leading to a higher level of energy security, job creation and an enormous increase in renewable energy deployment.

Hermann Scheer, member of the German parliament and of the World Future Council said, *“Through its three basic elements – guaranteed grid access, fixed fees, no capping – Feed-in Tariffs have led to investment autonomy through operators who are independent of the power supply industry. New players have stepped into the market who now no longer have to ask the established energy providers for permission to access the grid. Only in this way can a breakthrough for renewable energy take place.”*

Congressman Jay Inslee added *“Americans have the will, talent and can-do spirit to beat global warming. It’s up to Congress to provide a regulatory framework that supports innovation and then get out of the way.”*

Further information on Feed-in Tariffs are available on the World Future Council’s website www.worldfuturecouncil.org – and at www.onlinepact.org

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The World Future Council is a global forum of 50 respected personalities who give voice to the shared ethical values of citizens worldwide. The Council works closely with policy-makers, civil societies and business to identify and implement best policies to protect the rights of future generations.

For more information on the World Future Council, please visit our website, www.worldfuturecouncil.org. Photos and interview partners are available on request.