

Senator Ken Salazar's Statement
Step-It-Up 2007
November 3, 2007

I want to thank all of you who are participating in the Step It Up events across Colorado today, and I'm sorry I can't be there with you in person. You are showing leadership in the fight against global warming by making your voices heard, and by making changes in your own lives to use energy more wisely.

For three decades, politicians in this country have talked about energy independence, but have been unable to deliver real results. In the meantime, our addiction to foreign oil has only grown more severe, and we have failed to make meaningful investments in the renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies that could help us reduce our carbon emissions.

What is different now, you might ask? Who is to say Congress and the American people have the political will to change our energy habits? Today's events, I believe, help show just what has changed: millions of Americans are now seeing our oil dependence and our energy habits as threats to our national security, our economic security, and our environmental security. Americans are demanding new products, new ideas, and new policies that help us reduce our dependence on foreign oil and combat global warming.

I am particularly proud of the clean energy revolution that is underway in Colorado. Our state is rich in renewable resources. Colorado has an abundance of sunny days, some of the best wind potential in the country, and the potential to use geothermal resources to heat our homes and businesses. A clean energy economy is also taking root on our farms and ranches across the state.

When I signed the petition to put Amendment 37 on the ballot in 2004, there were many who thought we couldn't produce ten percent of our energy from renewable sources by 2010. Well, they were wrong. Our great state has been so successful that the renewable energy standards were doubled to 20% by 2020.

I am very proud of the work both the House and the Senate did this summer to pass energy bills that will take our country in a new direction, that will enhance energy efficiency, increase production of clean domestic biofuels and other renewable fuels, find ways to safely store greenhouse gases, and raise fuel economy standards. This landmark legislation will reduce our dependence on oil, improve our energy security, and save consumers and taxpayers money on their energy bills. Both the House and Senate leadership are committed to resolving differences between the two bills, and sending the President a comprehensive energy bill to sign.

In addition to the energy bill, there have been numerous global warming bills introduced. These bills have helped identify many issues that are important to consider before adopting any national climate change legislation. I am committed to working with my

colleagues to pass a global warming bill that will help our country create a clean energy economy that will protect our planet while creating well-paying jobs and allowing our country to prosper.

Thank you again for the personal leadership you are showing in the fight against global warming.