



Press contact:

Carol Tombari  
CRES Legislative Affairs  
303. 838.0275  
coloradotombaris@earthlink.net

*For Immediate Release*

---

**Colorado Senate Passes Legislation to Increase Renewable Energy Usage**

Denver, CO – April 30, 2002 – In a show of bipartisan support, the Colorado Senate today passed legislation providing for ten percent of the state’s electricity to be generated from renewable energy by 2010. The bill now moves to consideration on the House side, where it is sponsored by Representative Lola Spradley (R-Beulah), who serves as the House Majority Leader.

The Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES) — a non-profit association of businesses, the research community, and citizens supportive of clean, affordable energy — praised the senate for its “statesmanship and business horse-sense.” CRES president Megan Edmunds stated: “We congratulate Senator Terry Phillips (D-Louisville) for his common-sense vision in carrying this legislation. We especially appreciate the support of legislators who represent rural districts and recognize that renewable resources can provide a new crop for Colorado’s farmers and ranchers.”

CRES experts state that the ten percent goal, also called a “minimum clean energy requirement,” is easily and economically achievable, given Colorado’s abundant supply of renewable energy. Colorado ranks in the top ten states nationally for wind, solar and biomass resources. It also ranks third in the nation for unrealized energy efficiency potential.

CRES supports the concept of a minimum clean energy requirement, which would require regulated utilities to diversify the mix of generating fuels. More than 85% of Colorado’s electricity currently is generated from coal, with natural gas providing an increasing amount of electricity at peak-demand times. Broadening the range of fuel supplies is good for the environment and will help ensure affordability by adding competition in Colorado’s supply. Says Edmunds, “We aren’t saying that renewable energy can meet *all* our needs. We certainly can obtain more of our electricity from renewable energy than we currently do. Just as we are told to diversify our stock portfolios, it also is wise to diversify our energy portfolio.”

For more information on the minimum clean energy requirement, see the CRES Web site at: [http://cres-energy.org/initiatives\\_mce.html](http://cres-energy.org/initiatives_mce.html).