



**National Farmers Union
Special Orders of Business 2011**

CLEAN ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES FROM AMERICA'S FARMS AND RANCHES

WHEREAS, the United States continues to be one of the leading consumers of energy globally. Petroleum, natural gas and coal continue to comprise over 80 percent of energy consumption in the United States, while renewable energy comprises only 8 percent, and 51 percent of the petroleum used in the U.S. is imported, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration; and

WHEREAS, the president of the United States has called for the U.S. to be a world leader in clean energy technology, utilizing 80 percent clean energy by 2035; and

WHEREAS, investment in clean, renewable energy represents an opportunity to invest in rural economies and job creation; and

WHEREAS, historically the nation's farms provided fuel as well as food, feed and fiber; and

WHEREAS, farmers and ranchers can provide a variety of clean, renewable solutions including biofuels, wind, solar, biomass and methane biogas to meet our nation's energy goals; and

WHEREAS, local ownership by farmers, ranchers and rural communities of renewable energy resources to the greatest extent practicable retains economic benefits for rural communities; and

WHEREAS, EPA has approved the use of 15 percent ethanol in over 200 million vehicles manufactured beginning in 2001, providing significant benefits to reduce petroleum imports and to improve air quality; and

WHEREAS, the myth that grain ethanol is increasing food prices is blatantly false. We are producing feed and fuel from the same source. Ethanol does not compete against human food because field corn and grain sorghum are predominantly animal feed and when used in the production of ethanol the protein and feed value is still provided to livestock through distillers grains and other high protein products;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Farmers Union calls upon Congress to enact comprehensive clean energy legislation which aggressively supports the development of region-appropriate renewable energy resources in the President's 80 percent clean energy goal; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Farmers Union calls for increased ownership of renewable energy resources by farmers, ranchers and rural communities through a variety of policy mechanisms; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Farmers Union calls for greater investment in infrastructure capacity to deliver renewable energy to consumers. This includes investment in biofuels infrastructure such as blender pumps, pipelines, and increased manufacturing of flex fuel vehicles, as well as increased investment in wind, solar, geothermal and biogas energy production and transmission capacity.