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SENSITIVE

January 20, 2001

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Bush,

Congratulations on your inauguration. I am a Senior Scientist at the DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado and am writing this letter as a concerned citizen to remind you of an important perspective. Statistically, America represents 4.5% of the world's population yet annually consumes 25% of the world's energy and 25% of its petroleum production....and, most other countries aspire to our wealthy energy-intensive lifestyle. God forbid, but our nation and the world will most likely face an energy or pollution crises in the future (see attached graphic projection). In historical analyses, the U.S. may become viewed in a negative sense as the polluting energy hog who started it all. Indeed, the concepts promulgated by the Kyoto Energy Conference are a step in that direction. From this perspective, my colleagues and I believe that the DOE should allocate more funding toward research for developing renewable energy technologies.

I realize renewable energy is only a drop in the energy bucket right now, but someday that drop in the bucket will be looked upon as a critical investment. America needs to be strong, but some of the 1.3 billion dollars for each B-2 bomber (21 total so far) might better be spent on a clean, secure, dispersable, non-grid-connected energy source. The 21st Century may well become known for its chaos over the concerns for pollution and the search for energy. If so, renewable energy research can help fortify our future national security. When that energy crisis finally arrives, those leaders who exercised this foresight will be looked upon as having great vision and wisdom.

We scientists and engineers at NREL (the new kids on the block of the federal lab system) are not receiving the proper amount of financial support to adequately do our job. To their credit, our management has done the best they can with limited resources. NREL's current funding level is about \$200 million/year and half of that money goes out the door to industry subcontracts. Our facilities are small; much of our equipment is outdated; lab technicians are scarce, and many of our technical projects are overburdened

and below critical mass. Needless to say, many of us are surprised, puzzled, and somewhat demoralized. We are limping along on insufficient funds when simple logic demands attention to an impending future problem. Except for when your father honored us with National Laboratory status in 1991, past administrations have given only lip service to NREL. Renewable energy could help America survive until the Holy Grail of fusion (or some other clean energy source) becomes a reality. That renewable drop in the bucket makes energy sense, military sense and environmental senseand, by an overwhelming 75% majority, the American people support its development. We and our Director, Admiral Richard Truly, need your attention and help. Mr. President, I realize that you have many priorities, but please review this situation with your advisors.

The Cold War is over and the potential for an energy-related war looms on the horizon. Timing is important. Prioritywise, we must increase emphasis on renewables immediately. We need not fully develop it as yet, but at least we will have the foundation of basic research in place to build upon. My colleagues and I estimate that NREL's budget needs to be tripled (equal to one-half B-2 bomber/yr) to adequately satisfy the objectives of our mission. That dollar figure still represents a back-burner amount on the great American research stove, but the heat will be more appropriate. Our children and grandchildren are depending on us; please don't let them down.

(See other attached data sheets)

Respectfully,

C. Edwin Tracy

NREL colleagues cc: R. Pitts, B. Gregg, C. Fields, G. Jorgensen, C. Bingham, D. King, J. Scahill, S. Ferrere, B. Nelson, T. Coutts, M. Keyser, T. Ciszek, M. Seibert, and Staff Council

NREL management cc: S. Deb, L. Kazmerski, J. Bellows, S. Bull, R. Truly

Other cc:

Mr. Spencer Abraham – Secretary of Energy

Mr. Donald Rumsfeld – Secretary of Defense

Dr. Condoleeza Rice -- National Security Advisor

Congresswoman Karen Thurman – Co-Chair, House Renewable Energy Caucus

Congressman Vernon Ehlers – Co-Chair, House Renewable Energy Caucus

Ms. Christine Todd Whitman – Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

Governor Bill Owens (Colorado)

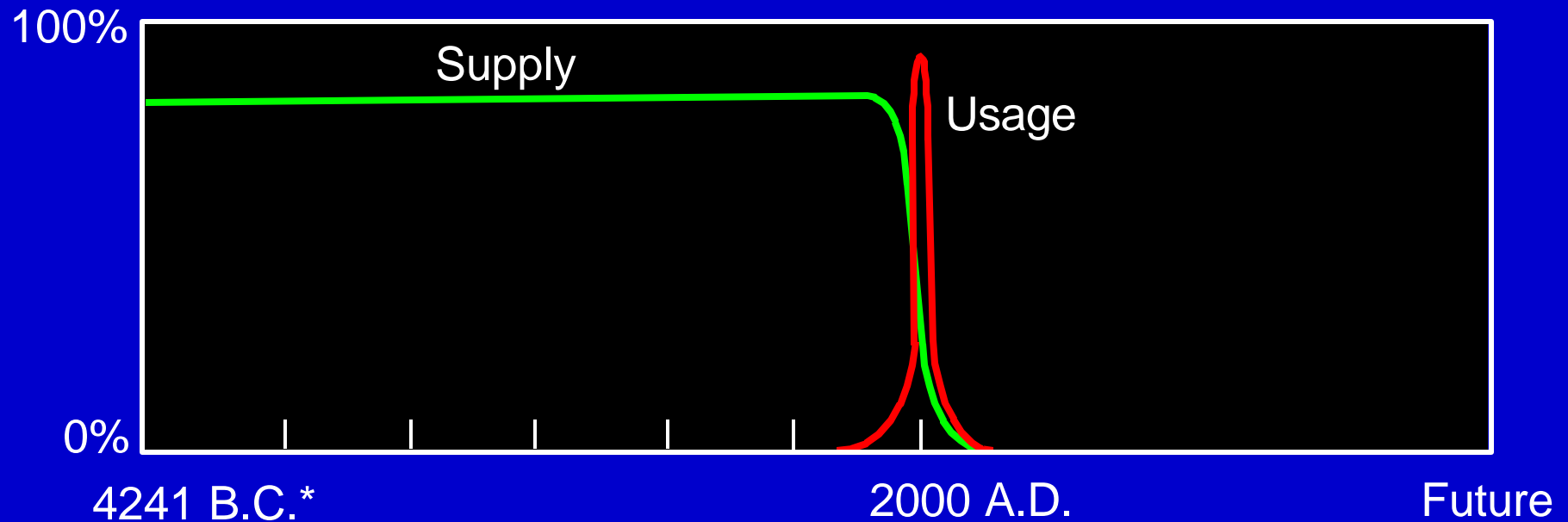
Senator Wayne Allard (Colorado) – Chairman, Senate Renewable Energy Caucus

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Colorado)

Congressman Tom Tancredo (6th District, Colorado)

Mr. Patrick Keegan – Director, Colorado Energy Science Center

Long-Range Perspective of the Fossil Fuel Energy Dilemma



“The supply of fossil fuel is rapidly diminishing and environmental pollution is rapidly peaking.”

*Earliest recorded date in Egyptian history