

National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board

Office of the Executive Director
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February 27, 2009

The Honorable Thomas Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 200-A
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

The Renewable Energy Committee of the NAREEE Advisory Board was established in 2008 and is charged to study the scope and effectiveness of research, extension and economics programs within the USDA Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area. A preliminary review of renewable energy programs and initiatives was conducted by a Work Group from the NAREEE Advisory Board. Work Group findings were presented and discussed at the full NAREEE Advisory Board meeting held in November, 2008. The Work Group findings, interviews with subject matter experts and Board member participation in meetings addressing renewable energy were used to develop this first Renewable Energy Committee Report.

The Committee makes five general recommendations for research and development investments by the USDA Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area. More specific recommendations will be forthcoming as the Committee continues its work. Our Board believes REE mission area is well positioned to contribute to the coordination and leadership of a national strategy for renewable energy. REE should continue to make strategic investments across a broad range of topics in renewable energy.

It is with pleasure that I provide you the Board's summary report including recommendations from the Renewable Energy Committee. As always, I remain available to discuss our findings with you at any time.



Sincerely
Martin A. Massengale
Chair

Enclosures

cc: U.S. House and Senate Agriculture and Appropriations
committees/subcommittees

bcc: Deputy Secretary-Designate Merrigan
Acting Under Secretary for REE Smith
National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges