## **Energy Strategy Coalition Statement on the Introduction of the Smith-Luján Clean Energy Standard Act**

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This week, Senator Tina Smith (MN) and Representative Ben Ray Luján (NM) introduced the Clean Energy Standard Act of 2019. The Energy Strategy Coalition appreciates Senator Smith's and Representative Lujan's commitment to advancing a constructive dialogue to address climate change. Our member companies have long supported an economy-wide approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions that promotes investments in clean and renewable energy while at the same time mitigating the risks to our customers and energy infrastructure due to the changing climate, including extreme weather events, sea level rise, more frequent and intense wildfires, and reduced snow pack. Additionally, many of the states in which our companies operate have adopted stringent greenhouse gas reduction requirements and policies.

The electric sector has invested, and will continue to invest, in clean energy in response to customer demands, state and local policy, and market dynamics. A policy or suite of policies that establish a clear emission reduction trajectory is critical to providing regulatory certainty for long-term investments in clean energy. Such certainty will allow companies to pursue the least-cost emission reduction opportunities, invest in the necessary electric and transportation infrastructure, and ensure our industry continues to provide affordable and reliable electric service to our customers.

The introduction of the Clean Energy Standard Act of 2019 represents a critical opportunity for Members of Congress and stakeholders to discuss the risks of climate change and legislative solutions to address and mitigate those risks. A clean energy standard, as well as policy frameworks that directly price carbon emissions, can be an effective tool to drive investment in clean energy technologies and critical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

We look forward to continuing to discuss with Members of Congress and stakeholders how a national climate program can be designed to effectively address climate change and support the electric sector's long-term investments in a wide range of clean energy technologies and in a power grid that meets our future needs. We welcome the opportunity to continue to engage on the critical question of how best to design bipartisan, market-based programs that ensure meaningful emission reductions through the adoption of cost-effective emission reduction measures. Such programs should include provisions that mitigate impacts to our customers, enable a level playing field among retail providers, and provide a strong technology-neutral signal for clean technology innovation.

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About the Energy Strategy Coalition: The Energy Strategy Coalition is a group of electric generating and distribution companies dedicated to continued support of the needs of customers through the responsible management of existing energy resources and investments in new energy resources. https://www.mjbradley.com/content/mjba-energy-strategy-coalition