

October 30, 2008

Dear Governor Beebe,

It is our honor to transmit to you the final report of the Governor's Commission on Global Warming, representing the fulfillment of Act 696 (HB 2460), signed into law by you and approved by the 86th General Assembly.

You will see in this report that -- for the past year -- the members of the Governor's Commission on Global Warming (GCGW) have worked hard to answer your charge to "place Arkansas in a position to help stabilize global climate, to allow Arkansas to lead the nation in attracting clean and renewable energy industries to the state, and to reduce consumer energy dependence on current carbon-generating technologies and expenditures."

Based on this work, the Commission recommends that Arkansas adopt a statewide global warming pollutant goal to reduce the state's gross greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions below 2000 levels accordingly: 20% by 2020; 35% by 2025; and 50% by 2035. Specifically, to meet these goals, the Commission recommends adoption of a comprehensive set of 54 policies to address climate, energy, and commerce related issues in Arkansas.

To reach agreement on these 54 policies, the Commission identified, designed and analyzed a full suite of Arkansas specific actions, including assessment of GHG reduction potential, cost and cost savings, potential co-benefits, and consideration of numerous feasibility issues. The Commission also developed and approved the first comprehensive, statewide GHG inventory and forecast developed for Arkansas, covering the years 1990 through 2025.

Furthermore, during these proceedings, the Commission reviewed the physical science of climate change as well as recent developments in U.S. law. This review included the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fourth Assessment Report, and that Panel's study and assessment of impacts on the southern United States, as well as a review of the current status of international, federal and state law and policy on climate change and the treatment of science under the law.

Finally, we want to specifically offer our thanks and gratitude to the 21 appointed members of your Commission, the Members of the Beebe Administration serving on the Advisory Group, legislative staff, members of the public, and especially the Center for Climate Strategies for their independent facilitation, technical assistance, and expertise. Their public service to our state will leave a lasting legacy.

This initiative marks an exciting beginning for Arkansas. As we establish our own course for state, regional and national leadership on global climate change, this report provides a roadmap for substantial new opportunities for our economy, our energy needs, and our environment.

We look forward to working with you, your Administration, Members of the General Assembly, the private sector, and many others as we seek to implement the work of this Commission. We also seek a complete follow-through on this report through further tracking, review, and public collaboration, to ensure that both current and future generations of Arkansans fully benefit from its recommendations.

On behalf of the Commission, we want to thank you for the opportunity to serve on behalf of this critical and historic effort for our state.

Sincerely,

Hon. Kathy Webb

Co-Chair

Kevin Smith

Co-Chair