



**Industrial Energy Consumers of America**  
*The Voice of the Industrial Energy Consumers*

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January 29, 2009

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

“American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009”

On behalf of the Industrial Energy Consumers of America (IECA) we request that the manufacturing sector be exempted from any provision that would encourage or require states to decouple electricity and natural gas consumption from the prices that consumers pay. Decoupling is a direct disincentive for manufacturers to implement energy efficiency projects that improve our competitiveness and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Decoupling means if we reduce our electricity and natural gas consumption we will not see a reduction in the cost.

For many manufacturers, the cost of electricity and natural gas is significant and can determine whether they are competitive in global markets. We urge you to not pass legislation that increases electricity or natural gas costs and put more jobs at risk.

The Industrial Energy Consumers of America is an association of leading manufacturing companies with \$500 billion in annual sales and with more than 850,000 employees nationwide. It is an organization created to promote the interests of manufacturing companies for which the availability, use and cost of energy, power or feedstock play a significant role in their ability to compete in domestic and world markets. IECA membership represents a diverse set of industries including: plastics, cement, paper, food processing, brick, chemicals, fertilizer, insulation, steel, glass, industrial gases, pharmaceutical, aluminum, foundry resins and brewing.

IECA strongly supports energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy and look forward to working with you to increase energy efficiency and to increase manufacturing competitiveness, exports and jobs.

Sincerely,

Paul N. Cicio  
President

Cc: Senate