

Members of the House Federal Relations, Energy & Telecommunication
Committee:

I am Claudia Sanders Brown from Missoula, representing the Montana
Association of Churches, Caring for Creation Network and the National
Global Warming Coalition. We support SB 415.

Diverse religious traditions now recognize that climate change is the
critical challenge of the new century. Government has subsidized the
fossil fuel industry. Fossil fuels have polluted our air, water and land,
and have been the main contributor to global warming.

SB 415 is a first step toward a healthier future. It's time to change to
policies that support alternatives to fossil fuels. SB 415 will support this
change to a cleaner environment, to energy independence, and to a more
stable climate - if we act now.

We must take care of the Earth, our sacred home, and begin the change
to a healthier future for our children.

Thank you.

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April 11, 2005



We Must Modernize America's Electricity System

More than half of America's electricity is produced from outdated, coal-burning power plants that dump pollutants and heat-trapping gases into our atmosphere. In fact, power plants are the single largest source of CO₂—40 percent of the US total.

However, cost-effective, clean energy sources do exist. By increasing our use of clean renewable energy, investing in energy efficiency, and reducing pollution from fossil fuel plants we can save money for consumers, reduce heat-trapping emissions, and lessen the need for new coal or gas power plants.

A study by the Union of Concerned Scientists found that we could reduce power plant CO₂ emissions by 60 percent compared to government forecasts for 2020. Consumers could save a total of \$440 billion—reaching \$350 annually per family by 2020.

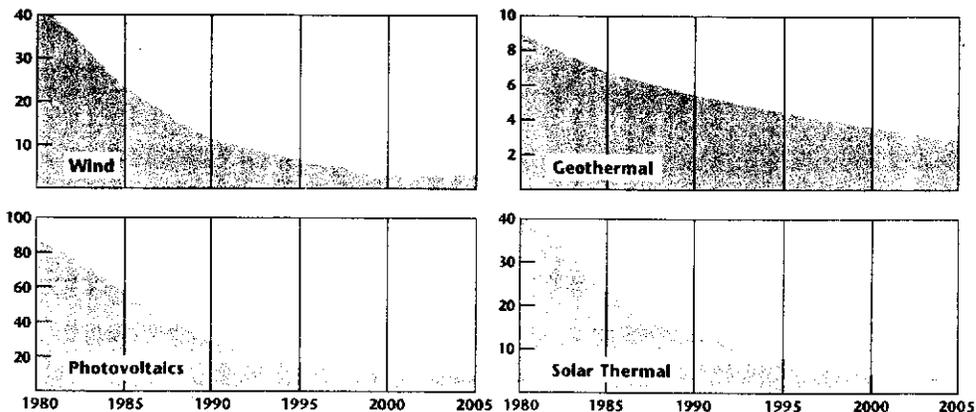
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20 Percent Renewables by 2020

A national standard requiring 20 percent of our electricity from renewable energy sources by 2020 is an attainable goal. We are already using clean, safe, renewable sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass (fuel from plant matter) to produce clean energy. Costs for these technologies have dropped dramatically since they were first introduced decades ago. For instance, the cost of wind energy has decreased from 40 cents per kilowatt hour in 1980 to between 3 and 6 cents today.

Renewables Success Story: Price declines with R&D and growth

(in cents per kWh)



Source: US Department of Energy, 1997

**COMMON
SENSE
SOLUTION**

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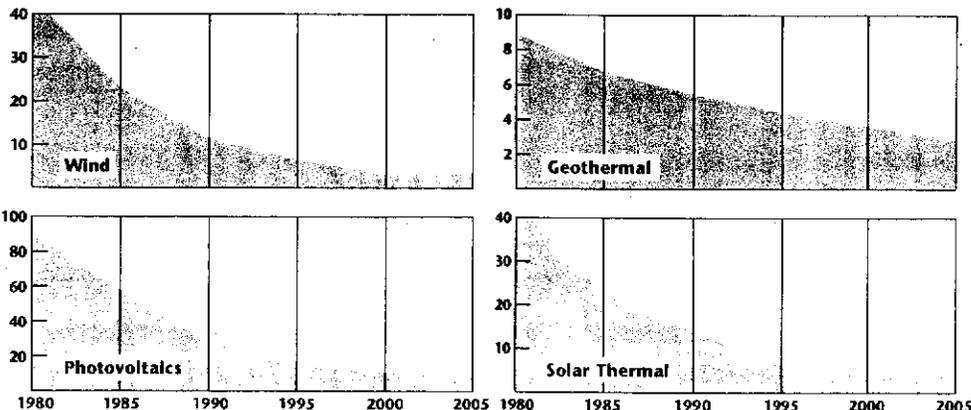
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