Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

March 30, 2009

Mr. Ian Talley
Dow Jones Newswires
1025 Connecticut Ave, NE
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036

Re: FOIA-2009-000117

Dear Mr. Talley:

This is in final response to your request for information that you sent to the Department of Energy (DOE) under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. You asked for all correspondence between Secretary Chu and members of Congress and their offices since his appointment.

In a conversation with Ms. Cindy Luckett on March 3, 2009, you were informed that our search would include true congressional correspondence as well as congressional constituent referral letters, and you were informed on what the difference was in the two types of correspondence. You indicated in writing on March 3, 2009 that you only want to receive the true congressional correspondence, not congressional constituent referrals.

A search was conducted of the Electronic Document Online Correspondence and Concurrence System of the Office of the Executive Secretariat. This system tracks all correspondence to and from the Offices of the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Under Secretaries of Energy. The Office of the Executive Secretariat located twenty eight documents responsive to the request. Those documents are enclosed and described in the accompanying index.

You may challenge the adequacy of this search for responsive documents by submitting a written appeal to the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, HG-1/L'Enfant Plaza Building, U. S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-1615. You should submit the appeal within 30 calendar days of receipt of this determination.

The written appeal, including the envelope, must clearly indicate that a Freedom of Information Act appeal is being made. The appeal must contain all the elements required by 10 C. F. R. § 1004.8 to the extent applicable. Judicial review will thereafter be available to you (1) in the District of Columbia, (2) in the district where you reside, (3) in the district where you have your principal place of business, or (4) in the district where the DOE records are located.

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If you have further questions, please contact Cindy Luckett (202)586-0317. I appreciate the opportunity to assist you with this matter.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Matthews
Deputy Director
Office of the Executive Secretariat

Enclosures

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Request from Ian Talley, Dow Jones Newswires for all correspondence between Secretary Chu and members of Congress and their offices since his appointment
Request #: FOIA-2009-000117

ES Control Number 2009-000628

1. Letter to Secretary-Designee Steven Chu from Senator Harry Reid, dated January 9, 2009, Subject: Senator Reid invites Secretary Chu to participate in a unique policy forum with the Center for American progress Action Fund to be held on February 23, 2009 in Washington, DC – 2 pages, *Release in its entirety*

ES Control Number 2009-001066

2. Letter to Secretary Chu from Senator Evan Bayh, dated January 23, 2009, Subject: Senator Bayh expressing concern with the decision making process for the loan application submitted to the Department's Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Incentive Program - 2 pages, *Release in its entirety*

    2a. DOE response letter to Senator Bayh from Secretary Chu, dated February 4, 2009 - 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

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3. Fax to Secretary Chu from Senator Debbi Stabenow, dated January 28, 2009, Subject: Urges the Department to give consideration to the Vehicle Production Group, LLC application for an Advanced Technology Vehicle loan - 2 pages, *Release in its entirety*

    3a. DOE response letter to Senator Stabenow, dated February 13, 2009 - 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

ES Control Number 2009-001269

4. Fax to Secretary Chu from Senators Richard Durbin, Christopher S. bond, Sherrod Brown, Claire C. McCaskill, Roland W. Burris, and George V. Voinovich, dated January 29, 2009, Subject: Reiterate support for the FutureGen program, and urge the Secretary to quickly release the final Record of Decision- 3 pages, *Release in its entirety*

    4a. DOE response letters to Senators Richard Durbin, Christopher S. bond, Sherrod Brown, Claire C. McCaskill, Roland W. Burris, and George V. Voinovich, dated February 20, 2009 - 6 pages, *Release in its entirety*

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5. Letter to Secretary Chu from Chairman Barbara Boxer, Environment and Public Works Committee, Diane Fienstein, Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, and Representative Elton Gallegly, dated January 29, 2009, Subject: Confirming the Department's commitments made at a meeting on survey and cleanup of Area IV at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory- 2 pages, *Release in its entirety*

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6. Letter to Secretary Chu from Congressman Rush Holt, dated January 17, 2009, Subject: Offer congratulations to Secretary Chu on his appointment as Secretary of Energy- 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

    6a. DOE response letters to Congressman Holt, dated February 12, 2009 - 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

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7. Fax to Secretary Chu from Representative Christopher J. Lee, dated February 2, 2009, Subject: Congratulating Secretary Chu on his appointment and expressing support for funding the New York Oxy-Coat Alliance, the State University of New York at Buffalo, and the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities clean coal project under the Department's Clean Coal Power Initiative- 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

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8. Fax to Secretary Chu from Represenative Michael A. Arcuri, dated February 4, 2009, Subject: Opposes the New York Regional Interconnection project and requests to meet with a Department of Energy representative- 3 pages, *Release in its entirety*

    8a. DOE response letters to Representative Arcuri, dated February 26, 2009 - 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

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9. Letter to Secretary Chu from Ranking Members Joe Barton and Geg Walden, dated February 6, 2009, Subject: Request response to listed questions and to provide all supporting documents pertaining to the special report, entitled "The Department's Unclassified Foreign Visits and Assignments Program (DOE/IG-0791) issued by the Department of Energy's inspector General in March 2008 - 2 pages, *Release in its entirety*

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10. Letter to Secretary Chu from Chairman Bart Gordon, Committee on Science and Technology, dated February 6, 2009, Subject: Requests a meeting with Secretary Chu to discuss mutual interest in developing an aggressive program to meet the Nation's energy needs- 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

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11. Letter to Secretary Chu from Chairman Bart Gordon, Committee on Science and Technology, dated January 16, 2009, Subject: Congratulate the Secretary on a successful confirmation hearing and expresses his belief that the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA-E) will be an important tool for the Department in meeting energy challenges- 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

    11a. DOE response letters to Chairman Bart Gordon, Committee on Science and Technology, dated February 12, 2009 - 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

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12. Letter to Secretary Chu from Senators Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, and John Kerry, dated February 4, 2009, Subject: Expressing concern regarding the Department's Super Savings Performance Contracting Program – 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

    12a. DOE response letters to Senators Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert Menendez, and John Kerry, dated February 4, 2009 – 3 pages, *Release in its entirety*

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13. Letter to Secretary Chu from Senators Dianne Feinstein, and Olympia Snowe, dated February 3, 2009, Subject: Congratulating Secretary Chu on his confirmation and urging him to set a timeline for the dispersal of funds from the $25 billion loan program for the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program – 2 pages, *Release in its entirety*

    13a. DOE response letters to Senators Dianne Feinstein, and Olympia Snowe, dated February 25, 2009 – 4 pages, *Release in its entirety*

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14a. DOE response letters to Senator Sherrod Brown, dated February 17, 2009 – 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

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    15a. Attachment: definition of terms – 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

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16. Fax to Secretary Chu from Representatives Anna G. Eshoo, Joseph Crowley, Michael H. Honda, Patrick Kennedy, Zoe Lofgren, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, and Bill Foster, dated February 13, 2009, Subject: Expressing strong support for Bloom Energy's application to the Department's Loan Guarantee Program – 3 pages, *Release in its entirety*

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    17b. Article from The New York Times, dated December 28, 2008 - 2 pages, *Release in its entirety*

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19. Letter to Secretary Chu from Representatives Ike Skelton and Emanuel Cleaver, II, dated February 5, 2009, Subject: Encourages the Secretary Chu to finalize the decisions necessary that would allow construction of the National Secure

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20. Letter to Secretary Chu from Senators Lindsey Graham, and Jim DeMint, Representatives J. Gresham Barrett, John Spratt, James Clyburn, Robert Inglis, Henry Brown, and Joe Wilson, dated February 3, 2009, Subject: Extend an invitation to the Secretary to visit the Savannah River Site to see firsthand the vital missions being carried out by the hardworking men and women who have ensured its success over the past five decades– 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

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22. Letter to Secretary Chu from Representative Gary C. Peters, dated January 28, 2009, Subject: Expressing his support for the application submitted by EcoMotors International for funding under the Department's Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Incentive Loan Program – 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

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24. Letter to Secretary Chu from Senator Richard Lugar, dated January 23, 2009, Subject: Urges the Department to give consideration for loan funding for Bright Automotive application – 1 page, *Release in its entirety*

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25. Fax to Secretary Chu from Representative Ike Skelton and Senator Claire McCaskill, dated February 25, 2009, Subject: Urges the Department to consider funding the biomass pellet facilities, like "Show Me Energy Cooperative" and invites the Secretary to visit their facility in rural Missouri– 2 pages, *Release in its entirety*

    25a. Letter to Secretary Chu from Steve Flick, Show Me Energy Co-Op, dated February 10, 2009 – 2 pages, *Released in its entirety*

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26. Letter to Secretary Chu and various Department Secretaries from Senators Mark Udall, and Michael Bennett, and Representatives Diana DeGette, John Salazar, Ed Perlmutter, Doug Lamborn, Betsy Markey, Jared Polis and Mike Coffman, dated February 25, 2009, Subject: Urges the Department to allocate funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to Colorado to help save forests damaged by wildfires and infestation of bark beetles – 3 pages, *Release in its entirety*

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27. Fax to Secretary Chu from Representative F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., dated February 25, 2009, Subject: Request details on the process for distributing the $40 billion in stimulus funds that was allotted to the Department of Energy by Congress and who will serve under Mr. Matt Rogers on the Department's Advisory Team – 2 pages, *Release in its entirety*

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28. Fax to Secretary Chu from Governor Linda Lingle, dated February 25, 2009, Subject: Advise of the State of Hawaii commitment to a robust improvement in energy efficiency and renewable energy as a condition to receive its share of the $3.1 billion funding of the State Energy Program under the American Recovery and Renewable Act of 2009 – 6 pages, *Release in its entirety*

(1)

2009 - 000628

HARRY REID
NEVADA

MAJORITY LEADER

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

January 9, 2009

Mr. Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy - Designate
Obama-Biden Transition Project
451 6th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Chu:

I would like to invite you to participate in a unique policy forum my office is sponsoring with the Center for American Progress Action Fund focused on building the new clean energy economy. The "National Clean Energy Project: Building the New Energy Economy" forum will take place in Washington, D.C. on February 23, 2009 at the Newseum. It will involve a small, select group of the highest-level leaders from government, business, labor, and advocacy groups intent on guiding the transformation of our nation's energy policies, with a special focus at this meeting on modernizing the electricity grid, integrating energy efficiency and distributed generation into its operation and regulation, and rapidly increasing transmission capacity for renewable energy.

The goal of the forum will be to discuss the best, most cost-effective options to "green the grid," and lay the groundwork for a broad national consensus between as many key stakeholders as possible on a clean energy agenda that will reduce emissions, increase reliability and affordability, and make us more secure and competitive. This important event will not only influence the development of a new and better national energy policy, but should also help speed up its adoption.

This event builds on the August 2008 "National Clean Energy Summit" sponsored by CAPAF, the University of Nevada Las Vegas, and my office. The participants in the summit concluded that inadequate access to transmission was one of the most significant barriers to widespread development of renewable energy. This forum will take the next step by further refining those hurdles and identifying solutions that can improve access to the grid for clean renewable energy and accelerate adoption of energy efficient and distributed generation technologies.

The forum will feature leading members of Congress, as well as Governors, Mayors, and, incoming Administration officials. It will feature business leaders like T. Boone Pickens and policy experts like John Podesta among a host of CEOs of leading energy companies, federal and state regulators, and major environmental organizations. Taking place on the heels of the expected passage of the fiscal stimulus package, we believe the forum comes at a unique moment

in history, helping both capture and propel the discussion and debate that will surround the upcoming energy debate.

Please contact Tom Brede (202-224-1619 or tom_brede@reid.senate.gov) or Chris Miller (202-224-3542 or chris_miller@reid.senate.gov) on my staff to let us know if you can participate or if you have any questions. I hope you will join us in Washington in February for this important national discussion of priorities for a clean energy future.

Sincerely,

HARRY REID
United States Senator

(2)

EXC-2009-001066

EVAN BAYH
INDIANA

131 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1404
(202) 224-5623
http://bayh.senate.gov

1650 MARKET TOWER
10 WEST MARKET STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204
(317) 554-0750

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1404

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

I am writing regarding concerns I have with the transparency of the decision-making process for the loan applications submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program, which was authorized by section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, as amended.

Section 136 authorizes the Secretary to issue grants and direct loans to applicants for the costs of reequipping, expanding, or establishing manufacturing facilities in the United States to produce qualified advanced technology vehicles, or qualifying components.

As you may know, an advanced technology vehicle industry is growing worldwide and governments in Europe and Asia have committed vast resources to build their own industries. While the U.S. has the technology and expertise in this industry, it lacks domestic production capacity and a sustained federal commitment. Consequently, our nation is falling behind. Researchers in the U.S., for instance, invented the lithium-ion battery and the Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicle (PHEV). However, Asia now manufactures the vast majority of the lithium-ion batteries, and a Chinese automaker rolled out a mass-produced PHEV this past December.

The money Congress appropriated for the advanced technology vehicle program represents our nation's first substantial federal commitment to electric drive transportation. It will help create and save jobs, stimulate the economy, and decrease our dependence on foreign oil, while also positioning the U.S. as a global manufacturing leader in advanced vehicle technologies. Moving beyond oil to electricity to fuel our vehicles will also provide cleaner air, fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and cost savings for consumers in terms of vehicle fueling, operation, and maintenance.

While the interim final rule, 10 CFR Part 611, sets forth eligibility criteria, application procedures, and specific terms and conditions for the receipt of grants and direct loans, it fails to specify how or when the Department of Energy will award any of those loans in a timely manner to qualified, financially viable companies.

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Section 129 (b) of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, states that Congress provided the money for direct loans as an "emergency requirement . . . to meet emergency needs." The Department then undertook an expedited rulemaking process to ensure the loans would be awarded in a timely manner. But when issuing the interim final rule, the Department stated that it may make decisions on the first tranche of loan applications "*at any time*." (Emphasis added.) Indeed, under the interim final rule, the Department is under no obligation to meet any deadline in issuing the loans.

Because Congress appropriated money for the direct loans to meet emergency needs, I believe the Department is under an obligation to issue the loans as soon as possible. This can be done by notifying applicants about the progress of their application at key points in the Department's decision making process and by making award determinations at the end of every subsequent quarter, until the appropriated funds are expended. For example, for all qualified applications submitted by financially viable companies on or before December 31, 2008, the Department should select eligible projects to receive the direct loans by March 31, 2009.

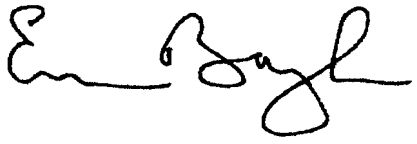
I am writing, therefore, to respectfully request that you administer the loan program in a transparent and expeditious manner. To that end, would you please provide me with:

1) A detailed explanation of the process the Department will institute to make the loan application decision making process as transparent as possible for all applicants; and,

2) The specific dates when the Department will notify applicants about the progress of their loan application at key stages in the decision making process, and in particular, the specific dates the Department will award loans for each tranche.

I look forward to your prompt response in this matter, preferably by February 2, 2009.

Sincerely,



Evan Bayh
U.S. Senator

The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 4, 2009

The Honorable Evan Bayh
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bayh:

Thank you for your January 23, 2009 letter regarding the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program.

I agree that the Department must move with a great sense of urgency to implement the loan program. This matter is one of my highest personal priorities in the early weeks of our Administration. I am closely reviewing the program and working to ensure that the Department has the right team and processes in place to accelerate issuing loans.

We will issue loans as quickly as possible, in accordance with the relevant statutes, so that we can help our automakers retool, create jobs, and produce the next generation of fuel-efficient vehicles. We will also move forward in a transparent manner. The Department will redouble its efforts to keep applicants regularly informed about the status of their loan applications, and we will keep you and others in Congress apprised of our progress.

If you have additional questions, please contact me or Ms. Betty A. Nolan, Senior Advisor, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

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STABENOW
MICHIGAN

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2204

January 28, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary,

It is my understanding that the Vehicle Production Group, LLC in Troy, Michigan is applying for an Advanced Technology Vehicle loan from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Vehicle Production Group designs, manufactures and markets automobiles that are built to accommodate people with disabilities and are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This loan will enable them to produce a compressed natural gas vehicle that will both accommodate this currently underserved population and promote energy efficiency.

Michigan is well positioned to develop the technology that will enable us to achieve energy security and economic revitalization through a low carbon economy. We have the infrastructure and resources to produce the next generation of automobiles and I am pleased that Michigan companies, like the Vehicle Production Group, are stepping up to be at the cutting edge of this technology. The green jobs that will be created are critical to economic recovery for Michigan and our country.

I know Vehicle Production Group, LLC is very committed to producing advanced technology vehicles. I hope you will give their application strong consideration.

Sincerely,

Debbie

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

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FAX

DEBBIE STABENOW
UNITED STATES SENATOR
MICHIGAN

To:	DOE Congressional Affairs	**From:**	Melissa Kaltenbach
Fax:	202-586-4891	**Title:**	Constituent Services Director
Phone:		**Date:**	January 28, 2009
Re:	Attached support letter	**Pages:**	2

- **Comments**

I am sending a support letter from Senator Stabenow on behalf of Vehicle Production Group's Advanced Technology Loan application.

Thank you for your assistance.

221 W. Lake Lansing Road, Suite 100, East Lansing, MI 48823 · Phone (517) 203-1760 · Fax: (517) 203-1778

Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 13, 2009

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Stabenow:

Thank you for your January 28, 2009, letter that was received on January 29, 2009, in support of the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing loan application submitted by the Vehicle Production Group, LLC.

The Department is preparing a detailed response to your letter, and you will receive a complete response as soon as possible. However, if you have any questions in the interim, please call me at (202) 586-5450.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Betty A. Nolan
Senior Advisor for Congressional
and Intergovernmental Affairs

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(4)

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 29, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
Forrestal Building, Room 7B138
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20585-0800

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Congratulations on your new position as Secretary of Energy. We look forward to working with you on many important issues in the coming years. Today we are writing to reiterate our strong support for the FutureGen program and to urge you to quickly release the final Record of Decision.

FutureGen is our country's best hope for building and operating a near-zero-emission, coal-fired power plant. Unfortunately, after five years of progress, the Bush Administration failed to move forward with this critical program. We look forward to working with you and the new Administration to see this initiative become a reality.

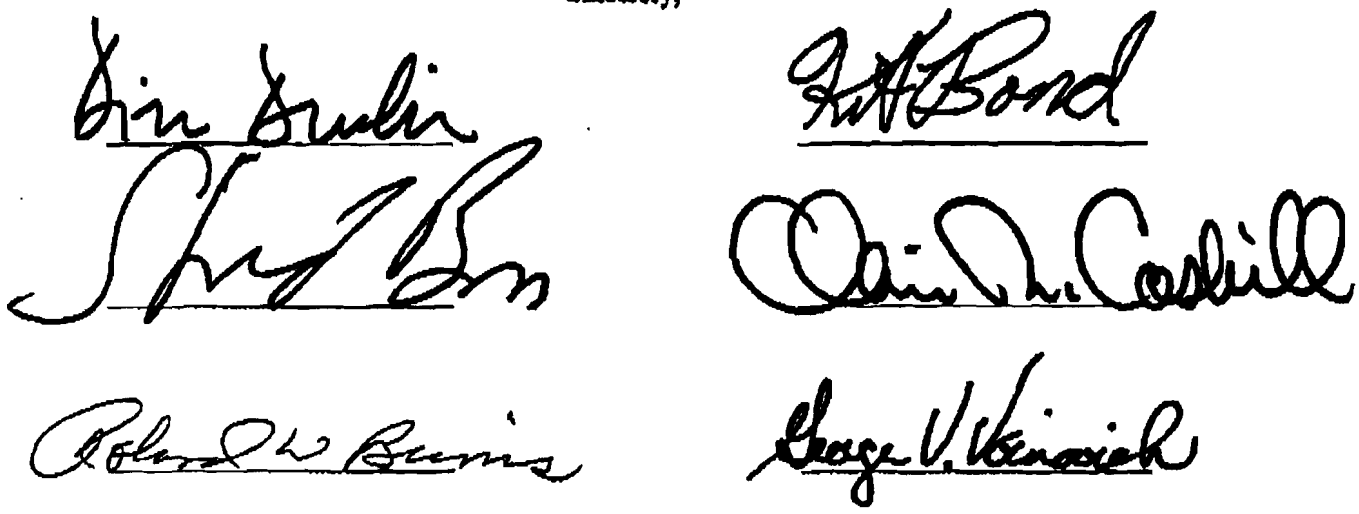
The Department of Energy announced on November 9, 2007, the completion of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and acknowledged that the FutureGen Alliance, as required under the cooperative agreement with the Department, would make its final site selection before the end of the year.

Then on December 18, 2007, the FutureGen Alliance announced its final selection of Mattoon, Illinois, as the location for the construction of the FutureGen project - - pronouncing the Mattoon proposal "exceptional" and underscoring the highest forms of teamwork and community support.

We were pleased when this independent council of renowned experts carefully assessed the science and strengths of Mattoon, Illinois, and favorably affirmed the commitment of state and local resources that were assembled in response to clear federal expectations announced over five years ago. Unfortunately, in January of 2008, the Bush Administration abandoned the FutureGen program.

The Department can indicate its intention to move forward with the project by quickly releasing the Record of Decision. Once you take this step, the Department can move quickly to negotiate a final contract with the FutureGen Alliance so that the project can move toward construction. We look forward to your leadership on this and other significant matters at the Department of Energy.

Sincerely,



Richard Durbin

UNITED STATES SENATOR ■ ILLINOIS

FAX

TO: Department of Energy

OFFICE:

FAX NO: (202) 586-4403

FROM: Sarah Neimeyer, Office of Senator Durbin

PHONE: (202) 224-2152

DATE: January 29, 2009

PAGES *(including this cover sheet)*: 3

NOTE:

364 Russell Senate Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20510 • (202) 224-2152 (202) 228-0400-fax

The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 20, 2009

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20150

Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your January 29, 2009, letter in support of the FutureGen project.

I discussed the issue of FutureGen with a number of Senators during my recent confirmation process. As I indicated, I did not have a working knowledge of the Bush Administration's decision-making with respect to FutureGen, but I did commit to undertake a thorough review of the program. More broadly, I share President Obama's view that we need to aggressively pursue affordable and effective carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology. CCS is needed in the United States and around the world. I will ensure that the Department of Energy (DOE) moves forward in the most effective way to test the variety of technologies that hold promise for cleaner-burning coal plants.

In your letter, you suggest that DOE can indicate its intention to move forward with the project by quickly issuing a National Environmental Policy Act Record of Decision. I appreciate the urgency in your request. I am reviewing the issue and would like to follow up with you at the end of the month.

I look forward to continuing our dialogue on this very important issue. If you have further questions, please contact me or Ms. Betty A. Nolan, Senior Advisor, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

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The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 20, 2009

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bond:

Thank you for your January 29, 2009, letter in support of the FutureGen project.

I discussed the issue of FutureGen with a number of Senators during my recent confirmation process. As I indicated, I did not have a working knowledge of the Bush Administration's decision-making with respect to FutureGen, but I did commit to undertake a thorough review of the program. More broadly, I share President Obama's view that we need to aggressively pursue affordable and effective carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology. CCS is needed in the United States and around the world. I will ensure that the Department of Energy (DOE) moves forward in the most effective way to test the variety of technologies that hold promise for cleaner-burning coal plants.

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Sincerely,

Steven Chu

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The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 20, 2009

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your January 29, 2009, letter in support of the FutureGen project.

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Sincerely,

Steven Chu

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The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 20, 2009

The Honorable Claire C. McCaskill
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCaskill:

Thank you for your January 29, 2009, letter in support of the FutureGen project.

I discussed the issue of FutureGen with a number of Senators during my recent confirmation process. As I indicated, I did not have a working knowledge of the Bush Administration's decision-making with respect to FutureGen, but I did commit to undertake a thorough review of the program. More broadly, I share President Obama's view that we need to aggressively pursue affordable and effective carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology. CCS is needed in the United States and around the world. I will ensure that the Department of Energy (DOE) moves forward in the most effective way to test the variety of technologies that hold promise for cleaner-burning coal plants.

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Sincerely,

Steven Chu

Printed on recycled paper

The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 20, 2009

The Honorable Roland W. Burris
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Burris:

Thank you for your January 29, 2009, letter in support of the FutureGen project.

I discussed the issue of FutureGen with a number of Senators during my recent confirmation process. As I indicated, I did not have a working knowledge of the Bush Administration's decision-making with respect to FutureGen, but I did commit to undertake a thorough review of the program. More broadly, I share President Obama's view that we need to aggressively pursue affordable and effective carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology. CCS is needed in the United States and around the world. I will ensure that the Department of Energy (DOE) moves forward in the most effective way to test the variety of technologies that hold promise for cleaner-burning coal plants.

In your letter, you suggest that DOE can indicate its intention to move forward with the project by quickly issuing a National Environmental Policy Act Record of Decision. I appreciate the urgency in your request. I am reviewing the issue and would like to follow up with you at the end of the month.

I look forward to continuing our dialogue on this very important issue. If you have further questions, please contact me or Ms. Betty A. Nolan, Senior Advisor, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

Printed on recycled paper

The Secretary of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 20, 2009

The Honorable George V. Voinovich
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Voinovich:

Thank you for your January 29, 2009, letter in support of the FutureGen project.

I discussed the issue of FutureGen with a number of Senators during my recent confirmation process. As I indicated, I did not have a working knowledge of the Bush Administration's decision-making with respect to FutureGen, but I did commit to undertake a thorough review of the program. More broadly, I share President Obama's view that we need to aggressively pursue affordable and effective carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology. CCS is needed in the United States and around the world. I will ensure that the Department of Energy (DOE) moves forward in the most effective way to test the variety of technologies that hold promise for cleaner-burning coal plants.

In your letter, you suggest that DOE can indicate its intention to move forward with the project by quickly issuing a National Environmental Policy Act Record of Decision. I appreciate the urgency in your request. I am reviewing the issue and would like to follow up with you at the end of the month.

I look forward to continuing our dialogue on this very important issue. If you have further questions, please contact me or Ms. Betty A. Nolan, Senior Advisor, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

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(5)

2009-001499

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 29, 2009

Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

We are writing to confirm the Department of Energy's (DOE) commitments made at a December 12, 2008 meeting with our staff on the survey and cleanup of Area IV at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL). This meeting was called to address our concerns that DOE has failed to work in good faith with other federal and state agencies and local citizens to quickly and thoroughly investigate and clean up contamination at SSFL.

Federal agencies and private companies have conducted research and development activities at SSFL since the 1950s. Their actions included the testing of nuclear reactors, nuclear fuel processing, and rockets. The site also experienced a partial reactor core meltdown that released radiation into the surrounding area. SSFL has an array of potential radioactive and chemical contaminants, including cesium, strontium, plutonium, uranium, trichloroethylene and perchlorate. These substances can cause cancer and threaten the health of pregnant women and infants.

SSFL is in a fast-growing part of Ventura County. Residential, recreational, educational, and agricultural activities occur on land around the site. Contamination at this site must be fully assessed and cleaned up to protect public health. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently conducting a radiological background survey and plans to survey all of Area IV.

DOE staff at the recent meeting included Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Ines Triay, Deputy Chief Operating Officer of Environmental Management Cynthia Anderson, and Assistant General Counsel Bruce Diamond. Acting Assistant Secretary Triay made a number of commitments that we would like to recount in this letter, including that -- DOE's "highest priority" at Area IV is EPA's surveying activities -- and that DOE will:

- Use the "majority of resources" for SSFL to pay for EPA's survey activities, consistent with DOE's compliance obligations to the State of California and infrastructure protection needs;
- Continue to give EPA's allocation priority each fiscal year until the survey is done;
- Allow EPA to take surface and subsurface samples that will be used to survey for radiological and chemical contamination;
- Allow EPA to perform radiological analysis on those samples, and DOE will use an EPA-certified laboratory to perform the chemical analysis; and

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- Ensure DOE staff participates in monthly conference calls concerning SSFL that involve EPA, State, and Congressional staff.

We appreciate the Acting Assistant Secretary's commitment to implementing needed reforms in DOE's approach to working with other stakeholders to clean up SSFL. Successful implementation of DOE's commitments can help rebuild trust in the Department's activities at the site, and facilitate a long-overdue final cleanup. We look forward to working with DOE, other federal and state agencies and local citizens to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer
Chairman
Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

Dianne Feinstein
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies

Elton Gallegly
Representative
US House of Representatives

2009-001531

(6)

RUSH HOLT
Twelfth District, New Jersey

1019 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-5801
Fax 202-225-6025

50 Washington Road
West Windsor, NJ 08550
609-750-9365
Fax 609-750-0618

website and e-mail:
www.holt.house.gov

Congress of the United States

Chair
Select Intelligence Oversight Panel
Committee on Appropriations

Committee on Education
and Labor

Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence

Committee on Natural Resources

Co-Chair
Children's Environmental Health Caucus
Congressional Research and
Development Caucus

January 17, 2009

Dr. Steven Chu, Secretary of Energy
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585-0001

Dear Secretary Chu:

Congratulations on being appointed Secretary of Energy. I can think of no one better suited to lead the Department at this critical time. You bring to the position a lifetime of study and research and the scientific knowledge to formulate and implement a national energy policy that will protect our nation's security and our planet's resources.

As one of the three physicists in Congress, I applaud our new President for his wisdom in choosing a scientist of your caliber to serve in his cabinet. The country will be the better for it.

Once again, my congratulations and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Rush

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress

RH/gk

THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20585

February 12, 2009

The Honorable Rush Holt
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Holt:

Thank you very much for your kind note of congratulations on my appointment as Secretary of Energy.

I am honored to serve President Obama and our Nation in this capacity. The challenges facing the Department of Energy are enormous; accelerating the development of advanced renewable sources of fuel that will reduce our carbon emissions; rapidly expanding conservation; and creating new green energy jobs. We are already fast at work and look forward to meeting these challenges.

Thank you again for your words of confidence and support.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

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(7)

EXEC-2009-001550

CHRISTOPHER JOHN LEE
25TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK
MEMBER-ELECT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Congratulations on your appointment as U.S. Secretary of Energy. I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that I look forward to working with you to address America's energy needs.

I am writing to express my support for a New York State clean coal project that recently applied for funding under the Department of Energy's Clean Coal Power Initiative. The New York Oxy-Coal Alliance, a public-private partnership including the State University of New York at Buffalo and the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities, is pursuing the development of an oxy-coal power plant in Jamestown, New York. This project would be the first of its kind and would produce 50 megawatts of electricity with near-zero carbon emissions. I believe this project demonstrates America's efforts to successfully deploy next-generation carbon capture and sequestration technology that will help lower energy costs, create jobs in Western New York and protect our environment.

On January 9, 2009, a letter was sent in support of the project to Secretary Bodman from Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Hillary Clinton, Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, Congressman Paul Tonko, and Congressman Brian Higgins. I wish to echo their support and further emphasize the importance of this project for New York State and the nation as a whole.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lee

CHRISTOPHER J. LEE
Member of Congress

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EXEC - 2009-001658

(8)

24TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (ON LEAVE)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3224

WASHINGTON, DC 20516
202-225-3665
202-225-1891 FAX

10 BROAD STREET
UTICA, NY 13501
315-793-8146
800-238-3626
315-884-1184 FAX

February 4,2009

The Honorable Dr. Steven Chu, Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Chu:

Congratulations on your recent confirmation as Secretary of Energy. My region of New York, like many areas of the country, faces a number of issues that pose potential economic hardship without intervention or support, I would like to take this opportunity to bring one of these issues to your attention, and ask for your thoughtful attention and assistance in the coming months,

New Yorlc Regional Interconnection (NYRI), a foreign owned, private utility company is seeking to build a 1200 mega watt, 190 mile bi-directional, high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission system extending from the Town of Marcy in Oneida County, NY to the Town of New Windsor in Orange County, NY. The NYRI proposal is without question the most high-profile issue in my district, and the entire community is unified in opposition,

NYRI's proposal is a direct result of special provisions in large part included in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58), specifically Section 1221 that provides the Department of Energy the authority to designate National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETCs), to alleviate congestion within which the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has authority to review and issue permits for electric transmission projects. Further, the law grants federal eminent domain authority to private companies seeking to construct transmission projects approved by FERC. The purpose of Section 1221 is to improve utility transmission, alleviate congestion and make the grid more efficient, bur there is no proof that the NYRI proposal would do so.

The NYRI project poses significant rislc to private landowners along the proposed route, threatens environmentally sensitive areas in the region, has potential negative implications for future economic development projects, and most importantly, will increase utility rates for families and business owners throughout Upstate New York without rectifying the congestion problem. For nearly the last two years, I have worked diligently with U.S. Reps. Maurice I-linchey (NY-22) and John Hall (NY-19) to stop the NYRI project via legislative and regulatory action. Together, we offered limitation amendments to appropriations bills prohibiting the Department of Energy from establishing NIETCs, and amendments to various energy bills considered in the House of Representatives to strip NYRI of federal eminent domain authority created under the Energy Policy Act of 2005. In addition, we have sent numerous letters to

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federal and state officials in opposition to the NYRI proposal, hosted public hearings, and aggressively outlined our opposition.

I respectfully request the opportunity to meet with the appropriate Energy Department officials to discuss the NYRI project in the coming weeks. Thank you for your prompt attention and consideration of this matter. I look forward to working together with you on this and other issues in the coming years.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. ARCURI
Member of Congress

FAX

OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL A. ARCURI

24TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

127 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
F: (202) 225-1891
P: (202) 225-3665

To: THE HON. DR. STEVEN CHU, SECRETARY

Office: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Fax: 202-586-4891 Phone:

Date: 2-4-09 Pages (excluding cover): 2

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☑ Please Reply

From:

- ☑ Congressman Michael Arcuri
- ☐ Sam Marchio
- ☐ Marion Read
- ☐ Roxanne Yaghoubi
- ☐ Mark Cornell
- ☐ Chris Wilcox
- ☐ Nell Maceda
- ☐ Sylvia Stanojev
- ☐ Melinda Becker

Comments:

HARD COPY TO FOLLOW.

The Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

February 26, 2009

The Honorable Michael A. Arcuri
U.S. House of Representative
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Arcuri:

Thank you for your February 4, 2009, letter concerning a proposed transmission project, the New York Regional Interconnect. We appreciate that you and your constituents have important concerns about the impacts this project could have on individuals and communities in your district.

This project is now under review by the New York Public Service Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Department of Energy has no role in these proceedings. Accordingly, it would not be appropriate for the Department to express an opinion on the merits of the proposed project.

If you need additional information, please contact me or Ms. Betty Nolan, Senior Advisor for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

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2009-001730 (9)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 6, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

As part of the Energy and Commerce Committee's (Committee) ongoing oversight of the Department of Energy (DOE) and the national laboratories, we are writing regarding the special report issued by the DOE Inspector General (IG) in March 2008. The special report, entitled *The Department's Unclassified Foreign Visits and Assignments Program* (DOE/IG-0791), concluded that DOE's Foreign Visits and Assignments Program (Program) posed an unnecessarily high security risk, because of weakness in the tracking and hosting of foreign nationals.

The Foreign Visits and Assignments Program has a history of security weaknesses. The IG's December 2002 report, entitled *The Department's Unclassified Foreign Visits and Assignments Program* (DOE/IG-0579), noted such shortcomings as admitting visitors before receiving the required approvals, not completing background checks, and either not entering, or entering incorrectly, information into DOE's Foreign Access Central Tracking System (FACTS). While DOE addressed some of these issues, the IG's 2008 report stated "[a]dditional and continuing weaknesses . . . diminished the effectiveness of controls designed to reduce the security risk associated with foreign visits and assignments."

Given the additional and continuing weaknesses identified by the IG, we are concerned that DOE may not be taking the necessary steps to identify and mitigate the security weaknesses of the Program. Please respond to the following questions in writing and provide all supporting documents:

1. Has DOE developed a corrective action plan to address the issues raised in the IG's report? If not, why not? If so, please provide a copy of the corrective action plan.

2. To what extent has DOE worked with law enforcement agencies to develop the corrective action plan? Please list the law enforcement agencies DOE has consulted with in

developing the corrective action plan, a point of contact for each agency with contact information.

3. What steps has DOE taken to ensure staff are familiar with the Program requirements and are adequately trained to use the FACTS system?

4. What corrective action will be taken against lab employees that fail to comply with the Program requirements?

5. Have any foreign nations exploited the security weaknesses of the Program to gain access to sensitive records, files, or computers? Please list all breaches that have occurred since the IG's 2002 report, including the date and location of the breach, the individual committing the breach and his or her home nation, the nature of the information compromised, and any other relevant information concerning the breach.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. If you have any questions related to this request, please contact Alan Slobodin of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Republican staff at (202) 225-3641.

Sincerely,

Joe Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Greg Walden
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

2009-001755 (10)

BART GORDON, TENNESSEE
CHAIRMAN

RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS
RANKING MEMBER

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUITE 2321 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301
(202) 225-6375
http://science.house.gov

February 6, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

Congratulations on your confirmation to be Secretary of Energy. I am writing to request a meeting to discuss our mutual interest in developing an aggressive program to meet the nation's energy needs. My staff has encountered difficulty in setting up our meeting, and I am anxious for us to meet as soon as possible.

Here are several options for our meeting:

- Tuesday, February 10, 2009 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, February 12, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 or 3:30 p.m.
- Friday February 13, 2009 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

As the country begins a new era of leadership I am encouraged by President Obama's commitment to science and technology, demonstrated by your appointment as Secretary of Energy. Your tenure at Berkeley National Laboratory was marked by a willingness to defy conventional thinking and challenge institutional barriers to innovation. Now, as you take on the critical task of transforming the Department of Energy into an agency that truly serves the nation's energy needs, I believe it is critical that we meet to discuss how we can work together to achieve the President's energy and environmental goals.

I also plan to hold a Full Committee hearing in March which will serve as a forum for you to discuss publicly your priorities within the Department's science and technology portfolio. I have tentatively set aside Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. for this hearing. I look forward to discussing this further during our meeting.

Please have your scheduler contact Amy Taylor of my staff (202-225-4231 or GordonSchedule@mail.house.gov) to identify an appropriate time to meet.

Thank you for your consideration and attention. I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Sincerely,

Bart Gordon

BART GORDON
Chairman

2009-001765

(14)

BART GORDON, TENNESSEE
CHAIRMAN

RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS
RANKING MEMBER

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SUITE 2320 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6301
(202) 225-6375
TTY: (202) 226-4410
http://science.house.gov

January 16, 2009

Dr. Steven Chu
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Chu:

I would like to congratulate you on a successful confirmation hearing this week. Like you, I believe that our country needs to aggressively pursue a balanced energy policy that will move our country away from dependence on foreign energy sources and address the very real problem of global climate change.

I strongly believe that the key to addressing these issues will be innovation and new technologies – energy efficiency and renewable energy, smart grid technologies, energy storage, carbon capture and sequestration, and nuclear energy. The Science and Technology Committee has already worked to enact (as part of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007) new authorizations for research, development, and demonstration of many of these energy technologies.

In addition, I believe ARPA-E will be an important tool for the Department of Energy in meeting our energy challenges. As you know, ARPA-E is intended to be less bureaucratic, less risk-averse, and more flexible than traditional energy programs at DOE, and it will seek to leverage the nation's universities, commercial, industrial, and investor communities and the national labs to pursue high-risk, high-reward research that neither they nor DOE would pursue on their own.

I expect that Congress will provide funding for these programs in the economic recovery legislation, the regular appropriations bills, or both. I hope that these programs will serve as a good starting framework for jumpstarting new investment in clean energy technologies. I also hope you will call on me and my Committee if you believe the Department needs additional authorizations to accomplish the new Administration's energy and environmental goals. I look forward to working with you to help solve our energy and climate challenges.

Sincerely,

Bart Gordon

Bart Gordon
Chairman

THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20585

February 12, 2009

The Honorable Bart Gordon
Chairman
Committee on Science and Technology
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you very much for your kind note of congratulations on my appointment as Secretary of Energy and for your comments in support of ARPA-E.

I am honored to serve President Obama and our Nation in this capacity. The challenges facing the Department of Energy are enormous; accelerating the development of advanced renewable sources of fuel that will reduce our carbon emissions; rapidly expanding energy efficiency; and creating new green energy jobs. We are already fast at work and look forward to meeting these challenges.

I anticipate working closely with you and the Committee on Science and Technology on many of the issues we face. Please feel free to call on me at any time, and I look forward to visiting with you personally in the near future.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

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(12)

EXEC-2009-001838

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 4, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

It has recently come to our attention that the regional and renewable technology contracts awarded under the Department of Energy's (DOE) Super Energy Savings Performance Contracting Program have reached their contract ceiling. We are very concerned about this, since it directly impacts the ability to execute as much as $2.2 billion in investments in ready to go energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades of our nation's federal facilities.

The most expeditious path forward for these projects is to award the projects under the original contract vehicles. While the DOE has extended the contract term of the existing contracts to account for this, it has not raised the contract ceilings so that projects currently in development and ready for construction can move forward as planned. Apparently, the Department has just recently discovered that these contract ceilings are approaching or exceeded their current maximums. The most expeditious and logical path forward is to increase the contact ceilings to accommodate all projects currently under development without further delay. There is precedent for this action. In fact, the Technology Specific Photovoltaic Solar contract under the Super ESPC program had its ceiling raised several years ago.

Please use your authority to ensure that the contract ceilings are raised on the affected contracts immediately to accommodate all the current projects in the pipeline. We are in an economic downturn in which we cannot afford to forgo or delay the near-term jobs stimulus provided by these Energy Savings Contracts. These projects will significantly increase energy efficiency and renewable energy generation in the federal government. Furthermore we request that no adverse action be taken to reduce, set back or cancel any projects or impair the existing regional or technology specific Super ESPC contracts.

Sincerely,

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate

Senator Robert Menendez
United States Senate

Senator John Kerry
United State Senate

One way to put your impatience to work! Sheldon

The Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

February 18, 2009

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

Thank you for your February 4, 2009, letter requesting that the Department of Energy (DOE) raise the contract ceilings on its Super Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPC).

I am pleased to inform you that earlier today, in accordance with statutory requirements, I notified Speaker Pelosi and Senate President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., of my determination that it is necessary in the public interest to increase the ceiling dollar amounts of the Department's expiring ESPCs so that agencies across the Government are able to issue task orders for energy savings projects that have been under development. Given today's energy, environmental, and economic concerns, DOE has renewed its commitment to improving energy efficiency and implementing renewable energy technologies at the thousands of Federal buildings and facilities across our country. An important and successful means of achieving this goal is through ESPCs. The ESPC program and this contract ceiling increase will allow improvements to Federal buildings without spending any taxpayer dollars for the initial work. Upfront funding for these improvements comes from private financing.

At a time when the Nation is experiencing significant economic distress and job loss, and in light of the President's economic recovery program to preserve and create jobs, invest in infrastructure, and increase energy efficiency in Federal buildings, it is critical that energy efficiency and renewable energy projects currently in development – particularly those that are almost "shovel ready" – be allowed to proceed in an efficient, cost-effective, and expeditious manner. I have determined that this cannot be accomplished unless the existing contract ceilings for DOE's original Super ESPC contracts are sufficiently increased immediately.

The Department, therefore, intends to increase the maximum contract ceiling for each Super ESPC in an amount sufficient to accommodate award of projects that were in development as of December 18, 2008, and to facilitate the administration of existing contracts. In accordance with statutory requirements, the Super ESPC contract ceilings will not be increased earlier than 30 days from today's date.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or Ms. Betty A. Nolan, Senior Advisor, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

The Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

February 18, 2009

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

Thank you for your February 4, 2009, letter requesting that the Department of Energy (DOE) raise the contract ceilings on its Super Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPC).

I am pleased to inform you that earlier today, in accordance with statutory requirements, I notified Speaker Pelosi and Senate President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., of my determination that it is necessary in the public interest to increase the ceiling dollar amounts of the Department's expiring ESPCs so that agencies across the Government are able to issue task orders for energy savings projects that have been under development. Given today's energy, environmental, and economic concerns, DOE has renewed its commitment to improving energy efficiency and implementing renewable energy technologies at the thousands of Federal buildings and facilities across our country. An important and successful means of achieving this goal is through ESPCs. The ESPC program and this contract ceiling increase will allow improvements to Federal buildings without spending any taxpayer dollars for the initial work. Upfront funding for these improvements comes from private financing.

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If you have any further questions, please contact me or Ms. Betty A. Nolan, Senior Advisor, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

The Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

February 18, 2009

The Honorable John Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

Thank you for your February 4, 2009, letter requesting that the Department of Energy (DOE) raise the contract ceilings on its Super Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPC).

I am pleased to inform you that earlier today, in accordance with statutory requirements, I notified Speaker Pelosi and Senate President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., of my determination that it is necessary in the public interest to increase the ceiling dollar amounts of the Department's expiring ESPCs so that agencies across the Government are able to issue task orders for energy savings projects that have been under development. Given today's energy, environmental, and economic concerns, DOE has renewed its commitment to improving energy efficiency and implementing renewable energy technologies at the thousands of Federal buildings and facilities across our country. An important and successful means of achieving this goal is through ESPCs. The ESPC program and this contract ceiling increase will allow improvements to Federal buildings without spending any taxpayer dollars for the initial work. Upfront funding for these improvements comes from private financing.

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The Department, therefore, intends to increase the maximum contract ceiling for each Super ESPC in an amount sufficient to accommodate award of projects that were in development as of December 18, 2008, and to facilitate the administration of existing contracts. In accordance with statutory requirements, the Super ESPC contract ceilings will not be increased earlier than 30 days from today's date.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or Ms. Betty A. Nolan, Senior Advisor, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

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(13)

Exec - 2009-001841

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Tuesday, February 3, 2009

Senators Feinstein and Snowe Urge Energy Department to Set Timeline for Dispersal of Funds from $25 Billion Loan Program for Auto Industry, Ensure that the Funds are Used to Build a More Fuel Efficient Fleet of Vehicles

Washington, DC – U.S. Senators Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) today urged the new head of the Department of Energy, Dr. Steven Chu, to set a timeline for the dispersal of funds from the $25 billion loan program for the struggling automobile industry – called the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program, which was established in Section 136 of the 2007 comprehensive energy and fuel economy law.

Senators Feinstein and Snowe also urged Dr. Chu to ensure that these auto loan funds are used to pay for the construction of new cars, trucks and SUVs that are 25 percent more efficient than the CAFE (or corporate average fuel economy) standard for that vehicle in the year the retooled auto manufacturing factory reopens. The current interim ruling, issued by the Department of Energy last year, defined the "base year" of this program as 2005, instead of the year a retooled factory reopens. This is significant because using the 2005 baseline fails to incorporate the significant fuel economy increase from the Feinstein and Snowe "Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy" Act.

Senators Feinstein and Snowe were the lead authors of the "Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy" Act, which was enacted by Congress in December 2007 as part of the comprehensive energy package. The law requires an increase in average fuel economy standards for America's fleet of vehicles by at least 10 miles per gallon over 10 years, and permits even higher standards if feasible. This was the largest increase in fuel efficiency in more than two decades.

Pasted below is the text of the letter sent by Senators Feinstein and Snowe to Dr. Chu:

February 2, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Chu:

Congratulations on your confirmation as Secretary of Energy. We look forward to working with you to address our daunting energy challenges in the coming months and years.

We are writing to encourage the Department of Energy (DOE) to establish an aggressive timeline for revising regulations and issuing loans under the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program, established in Section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. According to press reports, DOE currently lacks any timeline for distributing loans under this program.

We view the Section 136 loan program as an opportunity to financially advantage a shift in automobile companies' business models towards advanced technology hybrid, electric and other high efficiency vehicles.

Many of the applicants for the first tranche of loans plan to make significant capital investments that they would otherwise be unable to afford. Providing these firms with a precise timeline would allow them to plan their business operations during a time of extraordinary financial challenge.

As the authors of the Ten-in-Ten Fuel Economy Act, which increases Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards at least 40 percent over ten years, we are also concerned that the current interim final rule would allow loans that fail to produce improvements in fuel economy beyond what CAFE regulation will require. As we indicated in our November 14, 2008, letter to Secretary Bodman, attached, we are concerned that DOE's interim final rule erroneously defined the "base year" of this program as 2005, instead of the year a retooled factory reopens. DOE's error could allow automakers to receive subsidized loans for mere compliance with CAFE regulations, which would violate Congress's intent and squander government resources. We encourage you to quickly address this mistake.

Section 136 has the potential to help the American automotive industry establish itself as the world's leading producer of fuel efficient, cost effective, advanced technology vehicles. We trust you share our commitment to assuring that Federal resources are deployed as quickly as possible and targeted toward the production of vehicles that are more efficient than minimum standards will soon require.

We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senator

###

The Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

February 25, 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your February 2, 2009, letter requesting that the Department of Energy (DOE) establish a timeline for awarding loans under the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program (ATVMIP).

I agree that the Department must move with a great sense of urgency to implement the loan program, and our team is rolling up its sleeves and doing just that. Since being sworn in, I have been personally reviewing the Department's process for issuing direct loans, loan guarantees, and other funding to make it faster, simpler, and more accountable.

On February 19, 2009, I announced a series of reforms to DOE's loan and loan guarantee programs (including ATVMIP) outlined below:

- Rolling appraisals of applications – instead of delaying the consideration of an application until a far off deadline, the Department will review them when they are submitted so that decisions can be made more quickly.
- Streamlining and simplifying loan application forms and other paperwork.
- Accelerated loan underwriting by using outside partners.
- In cases where up-front fees may deter companies from applying, the Department will offer applicants the opportunity to pay the fees as part of the loan at closing.
- Further reduction of up-front costs by restructuring credit subsidies so they are paid over the life of the loan.
- Additional staff and resources to process applications.
- Working with the industry to attract good projects into the loan guarantee program and helping them navigate the process.
- A website that will provide increased transparency in both process and results, as well as information to help applicants through the process.

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

We will issue loans under the ATVMIP as quickly as possible, in accordance with the relevant statutes, so that we can help our automakers retool, create jobs, and produce the next generation of fuel-efficient vehicles. Specifically, that means that I expect the Department to be in a position to make AVTMIP loan commitments within weeks or months, not years.

I also appreciate having your input on the issue of using the 2005 CAFE standards as the "base year" as defined in the interim final rule as a measure of eligibility of loan applicants. I understand your concerns and will further study this matter, subject to any change not creating undue delay to the acceleration plans outlined above.

If you have additional questions, please contact me or Ms. Betty A. Nolan, Senior Advisor, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

The Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

February 25, 2009

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Snowe:

Thank you for your February 2, 2009, letter requesting that the Department of Energy (DOE) establish a timeline for awarding loans under the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Incentive Program (ATVMIP).

I agree that the Department must move with a great sense of urgency to implement the loan program, and our team is rolling up its sleeves and doing just that. Since being sworn in, I have been personally reviewing the Department's process for issuing direct loans, loan guarantees, and other funding to make it faster, simpler, and more accountable.

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If you have additional questions, please contact me or Ms. Betty A. Nolan, Senior Advisor, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 586-5450.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

2009-002103 (14)

UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

2/1/09

SHERROD BROWN
OHIO

Mr Secretary -

your words at our retreat were inspiring. Thank you for your public service.

I look forward to working with you.

Sherrod

THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20585

February 17, 2009

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for you kind note regarding my remarks at the Senate Democratic Issues Conference. I deeply appreciate your support and encouragement.

I look forward to a close working relationship with you and others in Congress in the months and years ahead. I am sure that we will be in regular communication on issues of national importance as well as the Department's operations in Ohio. Please feel free to call on me at any time.

Sincerely,

Steven Chu

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

(15)

ExecC-2009-002123

BART GORDON, TENNESSEE
CHAIRMAN

RALPH M. HALL, TEXAS
RANKING MEMBER

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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http://science.house.gov

February 13, 2009

Dr. Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC
20585-0800

Dear Dr. Chu:

Over the past decade the boom in federal contracting for goods and services has been astounding. In 2000 the federal government purchased $219 billion worth of goods and services from contractors.[1] In 2007, that number more than doubled, climbing to more than $465 billion.[2] In 2005, the Department of Defense obligated more than $141 billion on service contracts alone, a 72 percent increase since 1996.[3] While government contracting is essential for federal agencies to carry out their missions, excessive reliance on contractors can create serious problems as contractors' first responsibility is to their organization, not the federal government or the taxpayers.

Last year, a federal advisory panel warned Congress: "The growth in the use of contractors to perform acquisition functions that in the past were performed by federal employees, coupled with the increased consolidation in many sectors of the contractor community, has increased the potential for organizational conflicts of interest ("OCI")."[4] Nowhere has this trend been more apparent or problematic than in the defense industry. From 1993 to 2004, for instance, a total of 35 companies were consolidated into only four defense contractors: Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and Boeing.[5]

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[1] Report of the Acquisition Advisory Panel to the Office of Federal Procurement Policy and the United States Congress, Jan. 2007, p. 2. The panel was authorized by Section 1423 of the Services Acquisition Reform Act of 2003, which was enacted as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004. The full report is available here: http://www.acquisition.gov/comp/aap/24102_GSA.pdf.

[2] Trending Analysis Report since Fiscal Year 2002, Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS), accessed Dec. 2, 2008, available here: www.fpdsng.com/downloads/top_requests/FPDSNG5YearViewOnTotals.xls.

[3] Defense Acquisitions: Tailored Approach Needed to Improve Service Acquisition Outcomes, GAO-07-20, November 2006, p. 1, available here: http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0720.pdf.

[4] Acquisition Advisory Panel, p. 24.

[5] J. Young, "Protecting Information Through Firewalls & Organizational Conflict of Interest Implementation," National Contract Management Association, Aerospace & Defense Contracting Conference, July 15-16, 2004, Long Beach, California, available here: http://www.ncmaho.org/files/FileDownloads/PPTs/Jyoung.ppt.

These contractors provide not only strategic and planning services to many government agencies, but also produce many of the military's defense systems. But the defense industry is hardly alone. Avoiding, mitigating and detecting contractors' organizational conflicts of interest are a rising concern across federal agencies and in Congress.

The Subcommittee is concerned that the escalating use of federal contractors, particularly to inform and advise government agencies on a host of issues involving science, technology, aerospace, energy, environmental, public health, homeland security, regulatory actions and other issues has the potential to have wide-ranging repercussions that may not be in the best interest of the U.S. government or the general public.

Systems Engineering and Technical Assistance (SETA) contractors provide program management, development, planning, support and supervisory roles to federal agencies to assist in the oversight of the agency's government contractors. They may also act as technical representatives to government contracting officers. A report released last year on the federal workforce warned that as a result of industry consolidation and other issues, SETA contractors "have ended up as part of larger firms, sometimes supervising their parent or sister companies for the federal government. Concern within the government is mounting over the potential for organizational conflict of interest."[6]

To help avoid these conflicts, the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) mandates that organizational conflicts of interest must be acknowledged by contractors prior to any contract award. Agency heads or their designees can still award the contracts if conflicts exist, but they must provide a written waiver and the contractor must provide a written plan describing how they intend to mitigate these conflicts if the contract is awarded.[7]

Therefore, pursuant to the Committee's authority under Rules X and XI of the United States House of Representatives and Rule 3 (a) (5) of the Committee on Science and Technology, we are requesting that you provide the following lists and copies of all of the records (see attached definition) listed below (from January 1, 2004 to present):

1. A list of all contracts or subcontracts for "advisory and assistance services" (as described in Section 37.2 of the FAR). Please compile this list in a spread-sheet format with the following seven categories:
    a. Name of the contractor(s);
    b. Duration of each contract, including starting date;
    c. Amount of each contract;
    d. Amount and date of any bonuses paid to the contractor;
    e. Description of the services provided and/or anticipated;
    f. Name of the agency division in which services were provided;

---

[6] "Structure and Dynamics of the U.S. Federal Professional Services Industrial Base 1995-2005," Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), May 2007, p. 30, available here: http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/070501_psc.pdf.

[7] Subpart 9.5 – Organizational and Consultant Conflicts of Interest, Federal Acquisition Regulation. See particularly 9.503 Waiver and 9.504 (a) (2) Contracting officer responsibilities, available here: http://www.acquisition.gov/far/current/html/Subpart%209_5.html.

g. Type of contract, i.e., non-competitive or competitive.

2. Copies of all determinations required by Section 37.204 of the FAR (and related records) which require an evaluation of the need for contractor advisory and assistance services that were issued during this time period;

3. Copies of all requests to waive any of the requirements of Subpart 9.5 of the FAR related to any of the agency's procurements (and related records);

4. Copies of all decisions to grant any waiver described in item 2 above, whether issued by the head of the agency, a designee or any other official;

5. Copies of all records concerning the discovery of and/or actions to mitigate identified organizational conflicts of interest that arose since January 1, 2001, including, but not limited to, any of the items described in Section 9.506 of the FAR; and

6. For any agency contract that incorporated measures for the mitigation of organizational conflicts of interest, please provide copies of any and all delegations of authority for contract management functions issued by the contracting officer during performance of that contract, in accordance with Subpart 42.2 of the FAR.

To make arrangements for delivery of these requested records or if you or your staff have any questions please contact Douglas Pasternak, Investigations and Oversight Subcommittee professional staff member, at (202) 226-8892 or Dr. Dan Pearson, Subcommittee staff director, at (202) 225-4494. Please provide these records by Friday, March 13, 2009 and include two sets of records, one of which will be provided to the minority staff.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

BRAD MILLER
Chairman
Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight

cc: Rep. Paul Broun
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight

ATTACHMENT

1. The term "records" is to be construed in the broadest sense and shall mean any written or graphic material, however produced or reproduced, of any kind or description, consisting of the original and any non-identical copy (whether different from the original because of notes made on or attached to such copy or otherwise) and drafts and both sides thereof, whether printed or recorded electronically or magnetically or stored in any type of data bank, including, but not limited to, the following: correspondence, memoranda, records, summaries of personal conversations or interviews, minutes or records of meetings or conferences, opinions or reports of consultants, projections, statistical statements, drafts, contracts, agreements, purchase orders, invoices, confirmations, telegraphs, telexes, agendas, books, notes, pamphlets, periodicals, reports, studies, evaluations, opinions, logs, diaries, desk calendars, appointment books, tape recordings, video recordings, e-mails, voice mails, computer tapes, or other computer stored matter, magnetic tapes, microfilm, microfiche, punch cards, all other records kept by electronic, photographic, or mechanical means, charts, photographs, notebooks, drawings, plans, inter-office communications, intra-office and intra-departmental communications, transcripts, checks and canceled checks, bank statements, ledgers, books, records or statements of accounts, and papers and things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated.

2. The terms "relating," "relate," or "regarding" as to any given subject means anything that constitutes, contains, embodies, identifies, deals with, or is in any manner whatsoever pertinent to that subject, including but not limited to records concerning the preparation of other records.

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2009

Honorable Steven Chu, Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu,

We are writing to express our strong support for Bloom Energy's application to the Department of Energy's (DOE) Loan Guarantee Program to support the deployment and commercialization of its solid oxide fuel cell technology.

As you know, Congress passed Title XVII of the *Energy Policy Act of 2005* authorizing the Secretary of Energy to make loan guarantees for projects that "avoid, reduce or sequester air pollutants or anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases; and employ new or significantly improved technologies as compared to commercial technologies in service in the United States at the time the guarantee is issued." Many of us have visited Bloom Energy and witnessed firsthand the enormous potential of its technology. We believe it should have federal support and that the DOE Loan Guarantee Program should promote the commercialization of this distributed generation solution.

While large-scale centralized utility projects such as solar and wind farms are important to our nation's energy future, the DOE should also support innovative projects that deploy and accelerate the widespread commercialization of fuel cells for distributed generation. Distributed generation allows power to be generated on site, where it is used, increasing energy security and decreasing strain on the grid.

Distributed generation should play a critical role in our nation's energy future and the Loan Guarantee Program will boast the efforts of clean distributed generation achieve its promise of quick deployment. Bloom Energy's solid oxide fuel cells promise a clean and reliable form of distributed generation and commercialization and we strongly support their application to the DOE Loan Guarantee Program.

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Thank you for your attention to this request. Should you have any questions or would like additional info, please do not hesitate to call Congresswoman Eshoo's staff, Casey Fromson at (202) 225-8104.

Sincerely,

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

Michael H. Honda
Member of Congress

Patrick Kennedy
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

A FAX FROM
CONGRESSWOMAN

ANNA G. ESHOO

14TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

TO: Secretary Chu FAX: (202) 586 4403

FROM: Congresswoman Eshoo

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES: 3 (INCLUDING COVER SHEET)

DATE: 2/13/09 TIME: 6pm

MESSAGE:
Casey Fronson - Staff contact

Washington, D.C. Office:
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Phone: (202) 225-8104 Fax: (202) 225-8890

District Office:
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Fax: (650) 323-3498

http://eshoo.house.gov/

(17)

EXEC-2009-00000

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

BOB INGLIS
FOURTH DISTRICT
SOUTH CAROLINA

February 2, 2009

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Thank you for taking the time to talk with me today about a revenue neutral carbon tax. Given all of the demands on a new Secretary's time, I feel very privileged that you invested those thirty minutes with me. I hope it is the beginning of a very productive dialogue. I'm here to help.

Best regards,

Bob

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
1000 Indepedence Ave, Sw
Washmgton, DC 20585-0001

100 Cannon House Office Building. Washington, DC 20515. 202.225.6030

House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

BOB INGLIS
4TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

THE TRIPLE WIN:
ENERGY SECURITY, THE ECONOMY AND CLIMATE CHANGE:
AN ENERGY SECURITY PAYROLL TAX SWAP

THE CHALLENGE

The economic downturn calls for action to stimulate the economy, such as reducing the amount of taxes taken out of each paycheck.

Our ongoing dependence on foreign oil from hostile nations also calls for action to reduce that dependence and move to fuels of the future.

Even if you disagree with the science of climate change, everyone agrees that less carbon in the atmosphere would not hurt us. By reducing taxes on something we want more of (income) and imposing a tax on something we want less of (carbon dioxide), an environmental fix could become a decisive, economy-expanding national security fix.

Here's a plan, proposed by U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis (SC-4). Similar concepts have been advanced by voices across the political spectrum—from President Reagan's economics advisor Dr. Arthur Laffer to Vice President Al Gore:

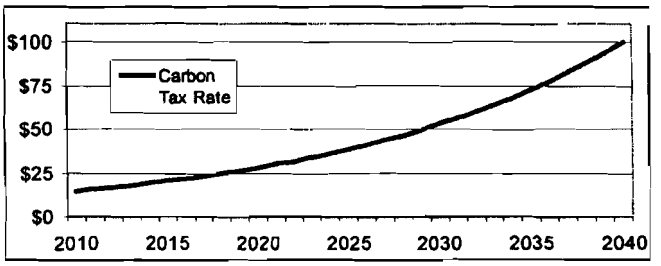
STEP 1: LOWER TAXES ON LABOR

- Lower the payroll tax for employers and employees by an amount equal to the tax swap.
- Seniors would receive rebates from carbon tax receipts to keep revenue neutral.

The tax swap will generate as much as $88.7 billion in its first year to rebate payroll taxes, amounting to a payroll tax reduction of more than 10% on average. The Social Security Trust Fund would not be touched; the swap would be handled in the General Fund of the Treasury.

STEP 2: ATTACH A PRICE TO CARBON

- Carbon price would start at $15 per metric ton of CO_2 in 2010 and increase to $100 by 2040, adjusted for inflation afterwards.
- Tax would apply to fossil fuels as they enter the economy: at the mine mouth, the oil refinery and the natural gas pipeline. This upstream application of the tax will make it easy to implement and reduce administrative costs.
- To provide businesses certainty and ability to plan, the bill would include a clear schedule of rates.



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STEP 3: ATTACH THE SAME PRICE AT THE BORDER

- In order to accord similar tax treatments to domestic and imported goods, products imported from countries without carbon constraints would be subjected to the U.S. carbon tax. The tax would be applied at the U.S. port of entry.
- Some will argue that this equal application of a carbon tax to imported goods violates existing WTO agreements. The equities, however, are in favor of an equal application of the tax.

IMPACTS ON ENERGY PRICES

Short Term Energy Price Impacts of $15 per metric ton CO_2 tax					
		Unit	Price per Unit (2006) ($)	Tax per Unit of Energy ($)	Price Change (%)
	Gasoline	gal	2.57	0.15	5.8
	Natural Gas	MMBtu	13.34	0.80	6.0
	Coal	MMBtu	1.70	1.42	83.5

The tax will encourage energy consumers to replace carbon-intensive forms of energy with low- and no-carbon energy alternatives. Increasing demand for clean energy technologies will improve our environment, diminish our dependence on the politically volatile oil-producing regions of the world, and stimulate our home-grown innovation economy.

The price effects on gasoline may not be sufficient to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. The tax on petroleum could be increased further, with corresponding refunds to taxpayers.

IMPACTS ON ECONOMY

Once the commitment to reduce labor costs while shifting to internalize the cost of carbon in fuels is made, market forces will unleash innovation because of known costs and predictible returns for innovation. We can foresee energy alternatives or "green jobs" to emerge on the anticipation of cost competitive alternatives.

The New York Times

December 28,2008
OP-ED CONTRIBUTORS | TRANSITIONS

An Emissions Plan Conservatives Could Warm To

By BOB INGLIS and ARTHUR B. LAFFER

CONSERVATIVES don't support tax increases that are veiled as "cap and trade" schemes for pollution permits. But offer us a tax swap, and we could become the new administration's best allies on climate change.

A climate-change bill withered in Congress this summer because families don't need an enormous, and hidden, tax increase. If the bill's authors had instead proposed a simple carbon tax coupled with an equal, offsetting reduction in income taxes or payroll taxes, a dynamic new energy security policy could have taken root.

Even if the United States extracts more of its own oil — something it needs to do — it will still have only 3 percent of the world's known oil reserves, and OPEC will still be the cartel with 70 percent of the world's known oil reserves. Conventional discoveries and unconventional extractions (like shale oil) would improve our standing somewhat, but OPEC's easily extracted oil makes its members the undisputed kings of crude.

If they're the kings, we're the vassals. As long as national security risks aren't factored into the cost of gasoline and as long as carbon dioxide can be emitted without penalty, oil will continue to have an advantage over emerging fuels in the marketplace, and we'll continue our ruinous addiction to it.

We need to impose a tax on the thing we want less of (carbon dioxide) and reduce taxes on the things we want more of (income and jobs). A carbon tax would attach the national security and environmental costs to carbon-based fuels like oil, causing the market to recognize the price of these negative externalities.

Nuclear power plants would then compete with coal-fired plants. Wind and solar power would have a shot against natural gas. Trains would compete with trucks. We would clean the air, create wealth and jobs through a new technology boom and drastically improve our national security.

The market-driven innovation that brought us the Internet and the personal computer could quickly bring us new, cleaner fuels. A carbon tax that was fully offset (with payroll or income taxes cut by a dollar amount equal to the revenues generated by the new tax) would be as bold as the threat that we face.

Conservatives do not have to agree that humans are causing climate change to recognize a sensible energy solution. All we need to assume is that burning less fossil fuels would be a good thing. Based on the current scientific consensus and the potential environmental

benefits, it's prudent to do what we can to reduce global carbon emissions. When you add the national security concerns, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels becomes a no-brainer.

Yet the costs of reducing carbon emissions are not trivial. Climate change may be a serious problem, but a higher overall tax rate would devastate the long-term growth of America and the world.

It is essential, therefore, that any taxes on carbon emissions be accompanied by equal, pro-growth tax cuts. A carbon tax that isn't accompanied by a reduction in other taxes is a nonstarter. Fiscal conservatives would gladly trade a carbon tax for a reduction in payroll or income taxes, but we can't go along with an overall tax increase.

The good news is that both Democrats and Republicans could support a carbon tax offset by a payroll or income tax cut. Former Vice President Al Gore has argued for eliminating all payroll taxes and replacing them with "pollution taxes." He said in a speech at New York University's law school two years ago: "It would be, in other words, a revenue-neutral tax swap. But, instead of discouraging businesses from hiring more employees, it would discourage business from producing more pollution."

The United States can't solve climate change alone. The Kyoto climate treaty was rightly rejected by the Senate because China and India weren't subject to its provisions. If China and India join the United States in attaching a price to carbon, their goods should come into this country without a carbon adjustment. But if they do not, every item they place on our shelves should be subject to the same carbon tax that we would place on our domestically produced goods, again offset by a revenue-neutral tax cut.

If World Trade Organization rules entitle members to an unwarranted exemption from such a carbon tax, then we should change them. Outliers should not be allowed to frustrate the decision-making of the countries that are trying to prevent the security and environmental train wrecks of this century.

As president, Barack Obama, by working with conservatives as well as the members of his own party, can at once clean the air, create jobs and improve the national security of the United States — a triple play for the next American century.

Bob Inglis is a Republican representative from South Carolina. Arthur B. Laffer was a member of President Ronald Reagan's Economic Policy Advisory Board from 1981 to 1989.

Other articles supporting a similar approach:

Charles Krauthammer, "The Case for a Net Zero Gas Tax." *Weekly Standard* (January 5, 2009).

Greg Mankiw, "One Answer to Global Warming: A New Tax," *New York Times* (September 16,3007).

Russell Gold and Ian Talley, "Exxon CEO Advocates Emissions Tax," *Wall Street Journal* (January 9, 2009).

2009-002329 (18)

JEAN SCHMIDT
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
SECOND DISTRICT, OHIO

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

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www.house.gov/schmidt
jeanschmidt@mail.house.gov

January 30, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue Sw
Washington, DC 20585-0001

Dear Secretary Chu:

Congratulations on being confirmed Secretary of Energy. I look forward to working with you on the difficult issues facing our great country.

I write today to bring to your attention the importance of continuing to fund the Department of Energy (DOE) Section 136 Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program (ATVMIP). This program was established under H.R. 6, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, which was signed into law on December 19, 2007. Recently, Congress appropriated $7.5 billion to support a maximum of $25 billion in loans under the ATVMIP.

As of December 31, 2008, the ATVMIP program has received 75 applications, all of which will be considered as part of the first tranche. Of the applications received, 23 are considered substantially complete. Determination of substantially complete is the first step of a four step review and evaluation process. These 23 applicants are now being evaluated on whether or not the applications meet the financial eligibility requirements, as well as the technical eligibility requirements laid out in the Interim Final Rule (73 Fed. Reg. 66721-37, November 12, 2008).

Like President Obama, I believe that the United States needs to have one million plug-in hybrid electric vehicles on American roads by 2015. As you know, the ATVMIP program has the potential to meet these objectives, as well as help our nation continue to move away from its dependence on foreign oil. I ask that you and your Department support this program by ensuring that the money appropriated will remain, in an effort to move America forward with new modern vehicle efficiency.

In advance, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jean

Jean Schmidt
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

2009-002334

(19)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 5, 2009

Secretary Steven Chu
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu,

We understand that the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Agency (NNSA) is in the final stage of commitment for sponsoring the construction of the National Secure Manufacturing Center (NSMC) in conjunction with the NNSA's Kansas City Responsive Infrastructure Manufacturing and Sourcing (KCRIMS) project.

As you know, we have strongly supported this project of the past several years. We understand this project will preserve 2,300 highly-skilled scientific and manufacturing jobs that are critical to our national security. KCRIMS will also replace a 65 year-old Cold War infrastructure with significantly smaller, modern, more energy-efficient facility that will save taxpayers over $100 million annually. KCRIMS is a "shovel ready" project that can immediately create about 1,500 construction jobs in the region for two years and generate approximately $600 to $700 million of economic stimulus for the region.

We strongly endorse the partnership that has been forged between NNSA and the Energy Department's Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence (DOE/IN) and support the synergy and cost savings that are created between these related projects. It is a strong indication of your Department's emphasis to embrace positive change and forward thinking for a more efficient government.

We encourage you to finalize the decisions necessary to allow construction of these projects to commence without delay.

Sincerely,

Ike Skelton
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

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2009-002569 (20)

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 3, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

South Carolina has a long history of partnering with the Department of Energy at the Savannah River Site (SRS). We are very proud of the fifty plus years of service the site and community have dedicated to ensuring our national defense and energy security, and we are confident that SRS has the necessary tools to play an important role in both of these arenas for many generations to come.

For this reason, we would like to extend a personal invitation for you to visit SRS at your earliest convenience. We think you will find it beneficial to see firsthand the vital missions being carried out at SRS and to meet some of the hardworking men and women who have ensured its success over the past five decades.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Graham
United States Senator

Jim DeMint
United States Senator

J. Gresham Barrett
Member of Congress

John Spratt
Member of Congress

James Clyburn
Member of Congress

Bob Inglis
Member of Congress

Henry Brown
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

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21

KAC-2009-002650

CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ
23RD DISTRICT, TEXAS

2459 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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FAX: (210) 923-8447
TOLL-FREE: (866) 915-3493

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HOMELAND SECURITY
TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

February 23, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

I am writing to express my support for a research grant from the Department of Energy for the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) to be used for the Energy Frontier Research Center to study resonant radiation catalytic interactions. The University of Texas at San Antonio, which is located in my congressional district, is partnering with Pennsylvania State University and the Southwest Research Institute (SWRI) to enhance the understanding of this new field to reduce energy consumptions in materials industries by 60-90 percent.

This grant proposal brings together a unique team of UTSA, Pennsylvania State, and SWRI scientists and professionals to explore how resonant radiation catalysis can be studied at the most fundamental level and how it can be applied to diverse energy industries from oil and coal to hydrogen production and transportation. I am proud that UTSA, a Hispanic Serving Institution, is collaborating with a university outside of Texas to produce valuable research related to energy efficiency, energy production, and energy storage.

I support this vital research project for the University of Texas San Antonio and the participating research facilities. A Department of Energy grant for the universities will provide the opportunity for significant research breakthroughs to advance our country's energy technologies. Your assistance in providing this funding to UTSA to further resonant radiation catalysis studies would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress

DISTRICT OFFICES

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209 EAST LOBOYA
DEL RIO, TX 78840
(830) 774-5500 TEL
(830) 774-2200 FAX

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EAGLE PASS, TX 78852
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(830) 752-1893 FAX

FORT STOCKTON DISTRICT OFFICE
103 WEST CALLAGHAN
FORT STOCKTON, TX 79735
(432) 336-3875 TEL
(432) 336-3961 FAX

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Attached is a grant letter of support from Congressman Rodriguez to Secretary Chu.

Thanks!

Robin Lloyd
Congressman Ciro Rodriguez (TX-23)
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Washington, DC 20515
P: (202) 225-4511
F: (202) 225-2237
robin.lloyd@mail.house.gov

Sign up for Congressman Rodriguez's e-newsletter at http://rodriguez.house.gov

THE HONORABLE CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Washington DC Office
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Washington, DC 20515
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Facsimile Transmittal Sheet

To: Betty Nolan, Congressional Affairs	**Company: Department of Energy**
From: Robin Lloyd	**Fax Number: (202) 586-4891**
Date: 2/23/09	**Number of Pages: 2**

Notes/Comments:

Included is a grant letter of support to Secretary Chu. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Robin Lloyd

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(210) 923-8447 FAX

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Eagle Pass
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Fort Stockton, TX 79735
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DHC-2009-002454 (22)

GARY C. PETERS
9TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

1130 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-5802

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–2209

January 28, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Mr. Seward:

I am writing to express my strong support for the EcoMotors International application for a loan under the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Program.

As you know, the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program was authorized under Section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 in order to encourage the manufacture of advanced technology vehicles and components that will lead to meaningful improvements in fuel economy performance. The EcoMotors proposal seeks funding to perform engineering integration, validation, and testing of an opposed-piston-opposed cylinder (OPOC) engine it has developed. The OPOC engine is significantly simpler, smaller, lighter, and more fuel-efficient than comparable conventional gasoline-powered engines, and will provide fuel economy savings in excess of 50%.

Michigan's Departments of Management & Budget and Transportation are working closely with EcoMotors to deploy the OPOC engine in a portion of the state vehicle fleets. This partnership will help EcoMotors establish a customer base as well as demonstrating the state's active commitment to expanding its high technology manufacturing base.

The proposal submitted by EcoMotors International will not only lead to the production of fuel efficient vehicle technologies as envisioned by Congress when it created the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Program, it will also create much needed jobs in the State of Michigan at a time when they are badly needed. I urge you to give this application every consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress

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2009-002721

(23)

ROBERT F. BENNETT
UTAH

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION
JOINT ECONOMIC

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4403
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  (435) 865-1335

February 11, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

As your department works to allocate funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan to state and local entities, I am writing to request your support for a number of projects in my home state of Utah that I believe merit your department's attention. I recognize the extensive demands being placed on these funds and, therefore, greatly appreciate any funding considerations you give the projects of Utah.

As you may know, Utah is one of the fastest growing states in the country. As such, Utah dedicates a significant portion of state funding and resources to projects that strengthen its economy and would use federal funds to leverage local funding. I believe the addition of federal funds to these projects would maximize the stimulative effect of these projects on the economy.

Many local governments and agencies in Utah have identified "shovel-ready" projects which are ready-to-go now, at the time that will benefit our economy the most. I believe these projects merit full appraisal by your department. I have enclosed letters from constituents with details on such projects, and I would appreciate it if you would review and consider their request.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of these projects that will help the economy of Utah. Further information on each project is available upon request.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Bennett
United States Senator

RFB:pw

Weber County Stimulus Package Infrastructure Request

All of the projects listed below will require some type of NEPA (Environmental Review Process) before construction will could begin. Included with the summary of each request is a short estimate of the time needed to complete the environmental review process after approval to proceed with the process is given. Also included is an estimate of the time to complete the engineering.

1. Construction of Levee on west side or Weber River from approx. 100 N. to approx. 10000 N.

   The river bank through this area has breached in past years and caused extensive flooding from the river to the Great Salt Lake approximately 7 miles to the northwest. The flooding can also impact a major industrial facility (GSL) before the water enters the Great Salt Lake. Land between the levee and the river can be a managed floodplain which can accept silt and debris during periods of high flow.

Environmental review.	120 days
Engineering	30 days

Economy stimulation	yes
Jobs created	87
Infrastructure	yes
Environmental Sensitivity	High

   Estimated cost for Construction $2,500,000

2. Bridge Replacements in Ogden Valley

   There are 4 Bridges in the Ogden Valley that have low sufficiency ratings. Two of the bridges are on arterial roads in the Valley (hwy 162), one is on a local road (Burly Lane) and the third is the entrance into a county park (Memorial Park).

Environmental review.	120 days
Engineering	60 days

Economy stimulation	yes
Jobs created	35
Infrastructure	yes
Environmental Sensitivity	Nuetral

   Estimated Cost of Replacement 4 bridges @ $250,000 Each $1,000,000

3. Safety improvement on North Ogden Divide

The North Ogden Divide Road needs addition guardrail and Shoulder work performed to provide better protection to the traveling public. The worst conditions are found on the East side of the Divide with some additional spot improvements needed on the west side of the divide.

Environmental review. (update needed)	30 days
Engineering	30 days

Economy stimulation	yes
Jobs created	122
Infrastructure	yes
Environmental Sensitivity	NEPA approval already given (Environmental Assessment already completed.)

Estimated Cost of Construction	$3,.500,000

4. Reconstruction and widening of 900 South from 4700 West to 10100 West.

There is an industrial park which this road serves. As the industrial area is developed there will be additional need for roadway improvements. The improvements would include reconstruction of the existing roadway and widening to accommodate the increased traffic load. Runoff water from the roadway will also need to be managed in basins which can be utilized to improve the quality of the stormwater runoff.

Environmental review.	120 days
Engineering	90 days

Economy stimulation	yes
Jobs created	630
Infrastructure	yes
Environmental Sensitivity	High

Estimated Construction cost	6 miles @ $3,000,000 per mile	$18,000,000

5. Hooper Slough Floodplain corridor enhancement

Project would provide for an improvement channel and wide flood plain to allow for safe passage of water during flooding events. Dikes would be required to contain or direct the stream during the flooding event. Project extends from 2200 South to 3400 South on the Hooper Slough. . The basin can also be constructed to help improve the quality of the water leaving the basin during high and low flow conditions.

Environmental review.	90 days
Engineering	30 days

Economy stimulation	yes
Jobs created	262
Infrastructure	yes
Environmental Sensitivity	High

Estimated Cost $7,500,000

6. Regional Stormwater Detention Basin near 1700 S. 3900 W.

Project would construct a detention basin to mitigate flood damage from high stormwater runoff. The basin can also be constructed to help improve the quality of the water leaving the basin during high and low flow conditions.

Environmental review.	90 days
Engineering	30 days

Economy stimulation	yes
Jobs created	28
Infrastructure	yes
Environmental Sensitivity	High

Estimated Cost $802,800

7. Regional Stormwater Detention Basin near 4500 W. 1650 S.

The Walker Slough is a major stream in the area which drains several sq. miles. Construction of the detention basin can reduce flooding during periods of high runoff. The basin can also be constructed to help improve the quality of the water leaving the basin during high and low flow conditions.

Environmental review.	90 days
Engineering	30 days

Economy stimulation	yes
Jobs created	42
Infrastructure	yes
Environmental Sensitivity	High

Estimated Cost $1,200,000

8. Road Salt storage facility

A structure to hold road salt and sand needs to be constructed. The enclosed structure will help to control the migration of salt for the storage area and reduce the potential for damage to surrounding waters. The enclosed structure will also help to warm the sand which can then be used on the roads instead of additional salt.

Environmental review.	30 days
Engineering	30 days

Economy stimulation	yes
Jobs created	14
Infrastructure	yes (needed to maintain infrastructure)
Environmental sensitivity	High

Estimated Cost $400.000

9. Wastewater Treatment Plants for Ogden Valley

Currently most of the homes in the Ogden Valley area around Pineview Reservoir utilize septic tanks and drainfields which discharge the effluent into the ground and subsequently into the groundwater. Construction of Treatment plants which produce a high quality level of treated effluent will protect Pineview reservoir and the groundwater which also feeds into the reservoir. Collection lines will also need to be constructed to bring the wastewater to the plants.

Environmental review.	120 days
Engineering	120 days

Economy stimulation	yes
Jobs created	840
Infrastructure	yes
Environmental sensitivity	High

Estimated Cost $8,000,000 per facility $24.000,000

Weber County Stimulus Package Energy Savings

Solar Panels at GSEC

Four buildings at the GSEC have roof lines that would be ideal for solar panels to be installed. The Golden Spike Arena, the Exhibit Hall, the Recreation Hall and Barn D all have roof lines with a southern exposure. The buildings in total span approximately 1,000 linear feet if set side by side. The buildings would require some retrofit engineering, but it could be kept to a minimum, depending on the actual placement of the panels.

The solar panels could be used to power the buildings for normal day to day operation with a possibility of producing enough power to actually create a surplus. In 2007, the GSEC's electrical costs were just over $100,000. Projected cost savings will be $50,000 or more annually.

Projected Cost: $380,000 Approx. 11 short term jobs

Skylights at GSEC

The two indoor arenas at the GSEC would benefit if skylights could be installed. Currently work lights are used for most daytime activities because the buildings are large and dark inside. Many community functions that pay a minimal fee still need to have light and the cost is prohibitive compared to the revenue it generates. Installing skylights would allow day time users and cleaning crews to utilize the buildings with reduced power if not eliminated altogether, depending on weather conditions and seasons.

Projected Cost: $175,000 Approx. 7 short term jobs

Water System Replacement at South End of North Fork Park

The water system that services the south end of North Fork Park, a 2,400 acre wilderness campground, dates back to 1970. The galvanized pipe that was used to run the water system is corroded and rotten away. It is only a matter of time before the entire system fails. This water system services 9 restrooms, approximately 160 individual campsites, and approximately 80 spickets for campers use.

Replacing the 10,000 gallon tank with a 50,000 gallon tank would improve the operation of the park, as this end of the park frequently runs low on water during the peak camping season.

Projected Cost: $820,320 Approx. 29 short term jobs

Construction can begin Spring 2009 and completed within 6 months

Included with requests from Curtis Christensen.

(24)

RICHARD G. LUGAR
INDIANA

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510
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senator_lugar@lugar.senate.gov
http://lugar.senate.gov

EXEC-2009-002730

COMMITTEES:
FOREIGN RELATIONS, RANKING MEMBER
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1401

January 23, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

I am writing to you today, on behalf of Bright Automotive to offer my support for their application for a direct loan through the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Incentive Program at the U.S. Department of Energy.

Bright Automotive is an Indiana-based firm developing a *100 mile per gallon, purpose-built, plug-in hybrid electric vehicle.* The entrepreneurs at Bright Automotive are rapidly pursuing their goal to reinvigorate America's transportation sector through innovative, high volume vehicle solutions based on economics, fuel efficiency, superior design, and lightweight materials.

Bright Automotive significantly leverages the innovative automotive heritage of Indiana. Their technology and application represent enormous opportunities to improve fuel efficiency while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Bright Automotive's continued development could also generate up to 2,000 jobs directly and with key suppliers.

Bright Automotive's design has the potential to create new energy-saving vehicles that can help our national goal of radically reducing oil consumption and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

I strongly urge the Department of Energy to give Bright Automotive thorough consideration when reviewing their application for loan funding. Their efforts in this field represent the ingenuity and deliverable results need to transform America's automotive sector. If you have any additional questions, please contact my Grants Coordinator, Andrew Mills at 202-224-4814.

Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dick Lugar

Richard G. Lugar
United States Senator

RGL/nbn

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EXEC-2009-002895

IKE SKELTON
4TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

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TELEPHONE: (202) 225-2876
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

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219 NORTH ADAMS STREET
LEBANON, MO 65536-3000
(417) 532-7984

909 THOMPSON BLVD.
SEDALIA, MO 65301-4593
(660) 826-2675

February 25, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary,

On February 17, the President signed into law H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This legislation brings with it a great deal of potential for the development of renewable energy in the United States.

H.R. 1 provides $16.8 billion for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) program, including $800 million to be set aside for applied research, development, demonstration, and deployment activities related to biomass.

In Missouri, we are very proud that Show Me Energy Cooperative, a cellulosic biomass production facility in Centerview, Missouri, has been a leader in turning corn stalks, switch grass, wheat straw, and other biodegradable matter into pellets that can be co-fired with coal or burned on their own. The Energy Department would be well served by studying Show Me's operation and working with them, if possible, to advance our nation's renewable energy objectives and to create jobs in rural Missouri.

We understand that Show Me Energy Cooperative's CEO, Mr. Steve Flick, has conversed with top scientists at the Energy Department to discuss the cooperative's goals and has received some positive feedback because its project is shovel-ready, will create jobs, and will cost just a fraction of a liquid biofuel project. But, some concern was raised that the Department's recent emphasis on liquid biofuels may exclude biomass pellet operations from being considered for loans or grants associated with the EERE program.

In the days ahead, the Energy Department will begin to determine how to best distribute additional funds appropriated for the EERE program. As you make this decision, we urge you to consider directing federal resources toward biomass pellet facilities, like Show Me Energy Cooperative.

Additionally, we have been made aware that Mr. Flick has invited you to personally visit Show Me Energy Cooperative. Witnessing firsthand Show Me's outstanding work would be well worth your time. Should your schedule permit you to travel to rural Missouri, we hope you will keep us informed.

With kind regards, we are

Sincerely,

IKE SKELTON
Member of Congress

CLAIRE McCASKILL
United States Senator

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OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN IKE SKELTON

2206 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-2504

202.225.2876

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:	FROM:
The Honorable Steven Chu	Senator Claire McCaskill & Congressman Ike Skelton
COMPANY:	DATE:
Secretary of Energy	2/25/2009
FAX NUMBER:	TOTAL NO. OF PAGES, INCLUDING COVER:
202-586-4403	4
PHONE NUMBER:	
202-586-6210	
RE:	
Show Me Energy Cooperative	

☐ URGENT ☐ FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

DANA M. O'BRIEN, JR.
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Show Me Energy Cooperative
Post Office Box 177
102 Southwest Missouri Highway 58
Centerview, Missouri 64019-0177

Phone: (660) 656-3780
Fax: (660) 656-3782
www.goshowmeenergy.com

Board of Directors
Larry Brunner
J. D. Dowell
Secretary
Jerry Ellis
Steve A. Flick
President
Don Heskett
Kurt Herman
Mike Rape

February 10 2009

United States Department of Energy
Dr. Steven Chu
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20595

Dr. Chu:

We would like to extend an invitation to you to visit our facility in Centerview, Missouri. Show Me Energy Cooperative is the first locally community owned cellulosic engineered fiber fuel commercial operation project in Missouri and the United States. We are a new generation co-op owned by 400 producers/farmers and our mission is to create renewable energy with cellulosic corn stalks, switchgrass and wheat straw.

Also, we would urge you to direct the Department of Energy to include biopower projects like ours in the energy efficiency and renewable energy (EERE) program provided for in both the House and Senate versions of the economic stimulus package, should that measure become law. EERE"s emphasis to date on biofuels has been helpful. However, with the large amount of new funding likely to be provided by the stimulus package, the Department will be well served by diversifying the projects it support. You should use as least a part of the stimulus funds to foster the development of biopower that uses innovative new technologies to enable coal-fired generation plants to reduce carbon emissions substantially at a very small cost when compared to other types of renewable energy.

Show Me Energy is on the cutting edge of clean-coal technology. Presently we have shipped thousands of tons of biomass pellets to utilities throughout the Midwest, and supply them daily to a local utility to Co-fire at a rate of

30%. Show Me provides 518 jobs every year it is in operation, and procures $6 million plus annually in sustainable biomass feedstock within 80 mile radius of the plant.

Show Me Energy has tremendous intellectual knowledge assets that we are willing to partner with different agencies. Some of those assets are: hands-on expertise in biomass processing, original biochemical formulations, and field-tested systems of growing energy crops such as polycultures of switchgrass or the monoculture of Miscanthus. We are a three-way partnership of private investment, state, and university. Our farmer-owners have raised start-up funds on their own, without federal assistance; we are strongly supported by the State of Missouri, and Show Me Energy works closely with scientists and others at the University of Missouri-Columbia and the University of Missouri-Rolla.

We would welcome a visit at your convenience. Feel free to call my office at 866-328-0494 to set up a time.

Sincerely,

Steve A. Flick

Cc: Ike Skelton
Clair McCaskill
Kit Bond

2009-002950

26

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 25, 2009

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Dr. Steven Chu
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretaries Salazar, Vilsack, Chu, and Napolitano:

We are writing to urge your agencies to do what they can to help us address the serious bark beetle infestation affecting our forests in Colorado—an infestation that impacts the state's economy, environment and water supplies. Two million acres of Colorado's high-elevation lodgepole pine forests are dead or dying. Municipal and county governments of the region and the state of Colorado are extremely concerned about the hazards of wildfire and falling trees to the health and safety of citizens, their homes and communities, vital public infrastructure such as power lines, and critical water supplies.

Now that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has been signed into law, we urge your agencies to seriously consider applying those funds to address the threats of wildfire and falling dead trees. In northern Colorado, the Forest Service alone has NEPA-ready projects valued at $57.4 million ready to go if and when money is made available through the ARRA. (Over ninety percent of the forests in northern Colorado are public lands, almost all managed by the U.S. Forest Service; The Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service also manage some lands.) These projects will create jobs, produce renewable energy from the removal of insect-killed trees, and protect watersheds that provide water to ten states.

In the five-county epicenter of the dead and dying forests there are:

- 12 incorporated municipalities located within the forest and 11 more adjacent to the forest.
- 28 incorporated municipalities that derive their primary source of drinking water from creeks flowing through dead and dying forests.
- 2,000 miles of roadways—many of which would be needed in the event of an evacuation—that are in jeopardy due to dead standing trees in the right-of-way.
- 1,500 miles of recreational trails on three national forests that are in jeopardy of closure due to falling dead trees.
- 21,455 acres of national forest developed recreation sites that are in jeopardy of closure due to falling tree hazards.

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- World-class ski resorts that must cope with safety and aesthetic issues presented by dead trees on slopes.
- More than 2,000 miles of national forest grazing fences, which are the responsibility of the rancher permittee, that are in jeopardy due to falling trees.
- 52 emergency communications sites that are in jeopardy.
- 633 miles of electrical transmission lines at risk from falling trees and that will not withstand a wildfire.
- 1,314 miles of electrical distribution lines at risk from falling trees and that will not withstand a wildfire.

In addition, the Colorado River rises and flows through these forests, supplying the metropolitan areas of Denver, Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Southern California. Major electrical transmission lines that feed the Western Grid (which serves the entire western United States) run directly through the heart of these forests.

We, the members of Colorado's congressional delegation, strongly urge you to:

- Immediately assess the hazards posed to the resources managed by your departments by this critical situation.
- Meet with affected municipal and county governments and stakeholders to assess the threats posed by this critical situation to their citizens, public infrastructure and water supplies.
- Develop budget proposals to effectively mitigate the hazards posed.
- Develop priority action plans to expedite the hazard mitigation projects.
- Report the assessment, proposed budgets, and proposed action plans to the Governor of the State of Colorado and the Colorado Congressional delegation.
- Begin the implementation of the priority action plans within the current fiscal year.

Jobs created in the public and private sectors to respond to the enormous task of implementing hazard mitigation projects will provide significant stimulus to our state and national economy. We cannot overstate the threat to communities and our fellow Coloradans' way of life posed by these dead and dying federal forests. We urge you take decisive actions within your authorities to avert potential disaster.

Sincerely,

Mark Udall
U.S. Senator

Michael Bennet
U.S. Senator

Diana DeGette
U.S. Representative

John Salazar
U.S. Representative

Ed Perlmutter
U.S. Representative

Doug Lamborn
U.S. Representative

Betsy Markey
U.S. Representative

Jared Polis
U.S. Representative

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Select Committee on
Energy Independence and Global Warming
U.S. House of Representatives

February 25, 2009

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

Congratulations on your recent appointment and confirmation. I look forward to working with you in the coming years. As you know, you have come to the Department of Energy (DOE) at a critical time, not only for our Nation's energy policy, but for our economic policy as well. You will undoubtedly play a critical role in the future of both, and perhaps more importantly, the relationship between them.

I recently read that you had formed an advisory group to aid with the rapid and efficient spending of $40 billion in stimulus funds that Congress allotted to DOE. *Greenwire* reported that Matt Rogers, the former director at McKinsey & Co.'s San Francisco office, would lead this team.

While stimulus funds can have their greatest effect if they are spent quickly, the need to spend unprecedented amounts of money as quickly as possible presents unique possibilities of waste and abuse. As the Ranking Republican Member on the House Select Committee of Energy Independence and Global Warming, charged with oversight of policies to achieve emissions reductions, I would appreciate as much detail of the process as you can provide. Specifically, I am interested in how the money is to be spent, what process will be used to make these determinations, and who will serve under Mr. Rogers on DOE's advisory team.

While I recognize the time constraints that Mr. Rogers is under, I would also appreciate if he or someone from his team could provide a briefing for my staff.

Given the focus on immediate action, I hope to have these briefings as soon as possible. Please contact Bart Forsyth, Chief Counsel, at (202) 225-0155 to arrange the briefings.

Sincerely,

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming

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Select Committee on
Energy Independence and Global Warming
U.S. House of Representatives

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COMPANY Dept. of Energy

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Tom Weimer_____ Bart Forsyth_____ Terry Lane_____

Harlan Watson_____ Andy Zach X Raj Bharwani____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

February 25, 2009

The Honorable Dr. Steven Chu
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

As a condition of receiving our State's share of the $3.1 billion funding for the State Energy Program (SEP) under the American Recovery and Renewal Act of 2009 (H.R.1) (ARRA), I am providing the following assurances that I have and will continue to provide strong direction to our Public Utilities Commission to promote and support increased energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, and resource planning, which will reduce our high dependence on petroleum while meeting utility obligations to maintain just and reasonable rates and protect the public. Also, I have and am working closely with our State Legislature and local governments by proposing and supporting strong actions to update, implement, and enforce state and local building energy codes in concert with statutory language contained in ARRA.

We are prioritizing our energy investments to take advantage of existing programs and expand programs where appropriate.

Our State is committed to a robust improvement in energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as a balanced State energy policy. I want to assure you that within the limits of my authority, we will move forward in these critical areas.

We look forward to immediate distribution of the Federal SEP funds to permit my State to make progress in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Sincerely,

for LINDA LINGLE

JAMES R. AIONA JR.
ACTING GOVERNOR

cc: Gil Sperling, Director, Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs, U.S. Dept. of Energy
David Terry, Executive Director, National Association of State Energy Officials
The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President of the Senate, Hawai'i State Legislature
The Honorable Calvin Say, Speaker of the House, Hawai'i State Legislature
Carl Caliboso, Chairman, Public Utilities Commission
Hawai'i State Energy Resources Coordinator

18 SEC. 410. ADDITIONAL STATE ENERGY GRANTS. (a)
19 IN GENERAL.—Amounts appropriated ~~in paragraph (6)~~
20 under the heading "Department of Energy—Energy Pro-
21 grams—Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy" in this title
22 ~~V of division A of this Act~~ shall be available to the Sec-
23 retary of Energy for making additional grants under part
24 D of title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act
25 (42 U.S.C. 6321 et seq.). The Secretary shall make grants

1 under this section in excess of the base allocation estab-
2 lished for a State under regulations issued pursuant to
3 the authorization provided in section 365(f) of such Act
4 only if the governor of the recipient State notifies the Sec-
5 retary of Energy in writing that the governor has obtained
6 necessary assurances that each of the following will occur:
7 (1) The applicable State regulatory authority
8 will seek to implement, in appropriate proceedings
9 for each electric and gas utility, with respect to
10 which the State regulatory authority has ratemaking
11 authority, a general policy that ensures that utility
12 financial incentives are aligned with helping their
13 customers use energy more efficiently and that pro-
14 vide timely cost recovery and a timely earnings op-
15 portunity for utilities associated with cost-effective
16 measurable and verifiable efficiency savings, in a
17 way that sustains or enhances utility customers' in-
18 centives to use energy more efficiently.
19 (2) The State, or the applicable units of local
20 government that have authority to adopt building
21 codes, will implement the following:
22 (A) A building energy code (or codes) for
23 residential buildings that meets or exceeds the
24 most recently published International Energy

1 Conservation Code, or achieves equivalent or
2 greater energy savings.
3 (B) A building energy code (or codes) for
4 commercial buildings throughout the State that
5 meets or exceeds the ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA
6 Standard 90.1–2007, or achieves equivalent or
7 greater energy savings.
8 (C) A plan for the jurisdiction achieving
9 compliance with the building energy code or
10 codes described in subparagraphs (A) and (B)
11 within 8 years of the date of enactment of this
12 Act in at least 90 percent of new and renovated
13 residential and commercial building space. Such
14 plan shall include active training and enforce-
15 ment programs and measurement of the rate of
16 compliance each year.
17 (3) The State will to the extent practicable
18 prioritize the grants toward funding energy effi-
19 ciency and renewable energy programs, including—
20 (A) the expansion of existing energy effi-
21 ciency programs approved by the State or the
22 appropriate regulatory authority, including en-
23 ergy efficiency retrofits of buildings and indus-
24 trial facilities, that are funded—
25 (i) by the State; or

1 (ii) through rates under the oversight
2 of the applicable regulatory authority, to
3 the extent applicable;
4 (B) the expansion of existing programs,
5 approved by the State or the appropriate regu-
6 latory authority, to support renewable energy
7 projects and deployment activities, including
8 programs operated by entities which have the
9 authority and capability to manage and dis-
10 tribute grants, loans, performance incentives,
11 and other forms of financial assistance; and
12 (C) cooperation and joint activities between
13 States to advance more efficient and effective
14 use of this funding to support the priorities de-
15 scribed in this paragraph.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
THEODORE E. LIU
DIRECTOR
MARK K. ANDERSON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

STRATEGIC INDUSTRIES DIVISION
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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO: Secretary of Energy, Dr. Steven Chu

FROM: Governor Linda Lingle

COMPANY: US Department of Energy

DATE: 2/26/2009

FAX NUMBER: (202) 586-4403

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SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER: DBEDT – SID – Energy Efficiency Branch

RE: Letter of Assurance

☐ URGENT X FOR REVIEW ☐ PLEASE COMMENT ☐ PLEASE REPLY ☐ PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS:

Letter of Assurance from the Honrable Linda Lingle, Governor.

State of Hawaii receiving its chare of the $3.1 billion funding for the State Energy Program (SEP) under the American Recovery and Renewal Act of 2009 (H.R.1) (ARRA).

Hard copy of letter will arrive via FEDEX.
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