Gopstein, Avi (S4)

From: jgingersoll@ecocorp.com
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2011 3:27 PM
To: Gopstein, Avi (S4); Brundage, Miles
Cc: Steven E. Koonin, Under Secretary for Science; sgrosvenor@ecocorp.com
Subject: Biomethane in the DOE QDR /Letter to Secretary Chu & U-Secy Koonin
Attachments: Secy_Chu_Koonin_EC_Let.pdf

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Dear Avi and Miles,

Per our exchange at the DOE QTR on Wednesday, attached please find a letter addressed to both Secretary Chu and Undesecretary Koonin regarding the inclusion in the QTR of biomethane as a secure, clean, reliable and affordable renewable biofuel as well as of necessary policy changes to offset entry barriers into the market of this and other energy technologies. I am also requesting an audience with Secretary Chu and with Undersecretary Koonin.

Please forward the attached letter to both Secretary Chu and Undersecretary Koonin. I look forward to receiving their feedback to my observations, recommendations and request for meeting.

Sincerely,

Dr. John G. Ingersoll
President & CEO
ECOCORP

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ECO CORP

1211 S. Eads St, Suite 803
Arlington, VA 22202

July 14, 2011

To: The Honorable Secretary S. Chu and Undersecretary S. Koonin

Re. Biomethane as a major renewable energy source in the U.S.

Having participated in the July 13 public hearing of the DOE QTR, I thank your senior advisors, Drs. A. Majumdar and A. Gopstein, for suggesting that I contact you regarding the augmentation of American renewable energy sources through biomethane. To this end, as the author of the recently published book, Biomethane, I would like to offer the following observations regarding the potential of this energy technology and its implementation for consideration in the QTR.

(a) Biomethane is produced by a commercially available technology that employs a biological conversion process with a minimal environmental footprint. The billions of tons of agricultural, industrial and other wastes (and not just cow manure), combined with energy crops that do not compete with food sources, could produce several trillion cubic feet of methane annually across the country. This effort would eliminate a dependency on imported oil and create several million green jobs that could not be exported.

(b) Market-entry barriers to new energy technologies need to be overcome. First, the production of energy needs to be priced more realistically to establish the economic competitiveness of renewable energy. The price of renewables would reflect their environmental and societal benefits by taking into account the costs of externalities such as defense expenditures to protect oil supplies, local health impacts of pollution and global greenhouse emissions that are not included in the price of oil and other fossils fuels. In Germany, for example, the price of renewable energy is reflected as a feed-in-tariff (FIT), such that energy derived from wind, solar and biomass is priced differently from coal or oil or natural gas produced energy. Second, since the current energy production system promotes large centralized enterprises at the exclusion of decentralized energy businesses, financing mechanisms and financial instruments need to be created to address this imbalance. The QTR would be a suitable vehicle to be a catalyst to effect such changes.

I would be honored to have the opportunity to meet with both the Secretary and the Undersecretary at a mutually convenient time to discuss further these concerns and to discuss the inclusion of biomethane as an integral component of the national energy and biofuels policy.

Respectfully,

Dr. John G. Ingersoll - President & CEO jgingersoll@ecocorp.com
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