

March 28, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Reid, Speaker Boehner, Leader McConnell and Leader Pelosi,

On behalf of the Advanced Ethanol Council (AEC), the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), the Biomass Power Association, the Clean Economy Network (CEN), the Geothermal Energy Association (GEA), the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA), and the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), we write today in support of Federal programs implemented to foster the development and expanded use of domestically-produced clean and renewable energy in the United States. Together, our industries account for over half a million jobs in the United States and counting. Existing federal programs continue to foster growth and allow U.S. businesses to lead a worldwide effort to deploy power plants, manufacturing facilities and fuel production facilities across the country. Many of our companies are already highly invested in these programs, including the Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Program, and have projects underway that would be suspended in the event that appropriations for such programs are eliminated or curtailed. To that end, we urge Congress to preserve investments in critical renewable energy programs, including full funding for the Department of Energy Loan Guarantee Program, as it works to fund the government for the remainder of FY2011.

Deployment of next-generation manufacturing and energy production technologies will help address the immediate and pressing need to reduce our nation's dependence on imported oil and ensure our global edge in developing clean energy technologies. The U.S. is spending \$560 billion annually to import foreign sources of oil, which now constitute 60 percent of our total oil demand. This addiction to foreign oil takes a tremendous toll on our economy; the high oil prices of 2008 alone transferred nearly \$1 trillion to members of OPEC. With crude oil prices again near \$100 a barrel and political unrest continuing in oil producing regions of the world, now is not the time to eliminate funding for programs designed to increase our energy security and create jobs here at home.

In an effort to address the critical and continuing dependency on fossil fuels, Congress has shown strong support for the development and deployment of next-generation clean energy technologies in recent years. For example, in recognizing the need to help finance large renewable energy generation and manufacturing projects, Congress granted the Department of Energy (DOE) loan guarantee authority in the *Energy Policy Act of 2005* and expanded it through the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*. To date, DOE has helped finance clean

energy projects that have created tens of thousands of U.S. jobs. Every dollar spent in this program is driving thirteen dollars of private sector investment.

As Congress moves forward with efforts to cut federal spending, it is important to recognize and retain programs that create American jobs, leverage private sector investment and increase tax revenue. The DOE Loan Guarantee Program is one of these programs. Eliminating funding for this program will disrupt and delay dozens of projects that are seeking a DOE loan guarantee, and will have very real impacts on job creation and energy security efforts currently underway.

We strongly support efforts to prevent funding cuts and preserve the DOE Loan Guarantee Program in its current state. Thank you for your continued support and consideration.

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