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April 19, 2007

Re: *Securing America's Energy Independence Act*, HR 550

Dear Chairman Rangel & Ranking Member McCrery:

On behalf of our members, we are writing to urge your support and co-sponsorship of the *Securing America's Energy Independence Act*.

The *Securing America's Energy Independence Act* would extend existing solar and fuel cell credits for eight years. This responsible, forward-looking bill would provide the stability these industries need to make major new investments, serve as a down payment on efforts to address global warming, reduce air pollution, help relieve our national energy crunch and create quality, high-paying technology jobs.

The United States possesses some of the best solar resources in the world, and it is time that we start putting the sun to work for all Americans. Solar energy is a clean renewable energy source. It helps us reduce the use of high cost natural gas used for water heaters and peak electricity production. Additionally, the distributed nature of solar power relieves strains on our over-taxed transmission system and thereby improves grid integrity to safeguard against grid failure.

Fuel cells for certain applications are providing early adopters with clean, quiet and efficient power. Extension of the investment tax credit will not only provide stability and certainty for the industry, it will help hasten the introduction of other fuel cell applications, as improved supply chains bring down component costs and supplier competition spurs innovation.

You have an opportunity to provide energy leadership, diversify our energy portfolio and expand America's clean, carbon-smart energy industry. Passage of a long-term investment tax credit is forecasted to produce billions of dollars of new investment, tens of thousands of jobs, and trillions of cubic feet of avoided natural gas consumption and the consumer savings that come with it.

We ask you to demonstrate your support for carbon-smart, increasingly affordable and independent renewable energy by supporting and cosponsoring the *Securing America's Energy Independence Act*, HR 550.

Very truly yours,

American Lung Association

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Environmental Working Group

Friends of the Earth

Greenpeace

Interfaith Environmental Council

National Association of State Energy Officials

National Environmental Trust

National Parks Conservation Association

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Public Citizen

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Sierra Club

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cc: Speaker Pelosi, Leader Boehner, Chairman Neal, Ranking Member English, Members of the Committee on Ways and Means