



April 18, 2007

Congressman Richard E. Neal
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Neal:

We urge you to support the Securing America's Energy Independence Act, H.R. 550, sponsored by Michael McNulty (D-NY) and Dave Camp (R-MI), legislation that would strengthen America's energy security and help make our nation a world leader in producing and using solar energy systems. Specifically, we ask that you co-sponsor H.R. 550, and, furthermore, as your committee develops a clean energy tax title, please include the provisions of H.R. 550 for solar energy.

The Solar Energy Business Association of New England represents approximately 50 businesses in solar manufacturing, design, installation, and support. Just yesterday, Evergreen Solar, Inc., the largest solar employer in Massachusetts, announced a new factory in Westborough that will employ an additional 375 jobs and create many additional jobs in systems sales, installation, and support.

The Securing America's Energy Independence Act is critical to the development of a US solar market and key to Governor Patrick's aggressive plans to boost the solar market and solar jobs in Massachusetts. While the Energy Policy Act of 2005 provided key investment tax credits for consumers who install solar energy systems, the credits are set to expire by the end of 2008. An eight-year extension of the ITC would strengthen our position as a global leader in solar energy and articulate the nation's clear and unambiguous support for a homegrown renewable energy industry.

We urge you to co-sponsor the bill, to support your committee's incorporating it in broader legislation as it develops, and to vote for this law this year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Farber
President, Solar Energy Business
Association of New England
Vice President, Evergreen Solar, Inc.

Mr. Paul Gromer
Executive Director, Solar Energy Business
Association of New England
President, Peregrine Energy Group