

OFFICE OF THE ASSESSOR-RECORDER
SAN FRANCISCO



PHIL TING
ASSESSOR-RECORDER

October 15, 2007

Honorable Speaker Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
235 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Federal Solar Tax Credit

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

The San Francisco Solar Task Force is a team of labor, business, environmental and civic leaders dedicated to accelerating the adoption of solar power in San Francisco to help the City reach its 10,000 Solar Roofs goal by 2010. On behalf of the San Francisco Solar Task Force, we are writing to ask for your help in ensuring the passage of the solar tax credit provisions in the energy tax bills that are pending in the House and Senate Conference Committee. The tax bill, HR 2776, lifts the \$2,000 tax credit cap on residential solar installations. Recent revisions to this proposed legislation in the House Ways and Means Committee, however, have removed this component and we fear that doing so will nullify the good intentions of this bill.

While the legislation is in conference committee, we ask that you please support

- an extension of the current 30% investment tax credit for solar energy projects for both residential and business installations,
- an elimination of the current \$2000 cap on the residential investment tax credit, and
- permitting residential and business taxpayers to claim the Solar Investment Tax Credit against the Alternative Minimum Tax.

With approximately 600 solar systems currently installed, San Francisco has a long way to go to reach our goals. The passage of this long-term solar tax credit is critical to cities around the country that are seeking to increase the adoption of solar energy. Nevertheless, there is more that government can do in terms of incentives. Despite state and federal rebates, the cost remains prohibitive for many who wish to install solar panels. In San Francisco, homeowners are left with costs ranging from \$12,000 to \$60,000.

We appeal to you as we know that you have made a clear commitment to pushing clean energy policies for the nation. The passage of this legislation puts San Francisco in a good position to become the nation's leading solar city, and we are pleased to report that it is already happening as the number of applications for the California Solar Initiative continues to soar. The San Francisco Solar Task Force looks forward to working with your office to achieve our goal of powering San Francisco with solar energy, fighting global warming, and creating a cleaner and brighter future for our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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David Hochschild
Co-Founder, Vote Solar

on behalf of the San Francisco Solar Task Force:

JP Ross, VP Strategic Relationships, Sungevity
Barry Cinnamon, President, CA Solar Energy Industries Association (CalSEIA); CEO, Akeena Solar
Guillermo Rodriguez, Executive Director, A. Philip Randolph Institute
Jill Kauffman Johnson, Principal, California Environmental Associates
Elliot Hoffman, Founder, New Voice of Business
Tim Donovan, Assistant Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 6
Sara Birmingham, California Policy Director, Solar Alliance
Jeanine Cotter, CEO, Luminalt Energy Corporation

Cc: Dan Bernal, Office of Speaker Pelosi
Melanie Nutter, Office of Speaker Pelosi
Amy Fuerstenau, Office of Speaker Pelosi
Mayor Gavin Newsom
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Commission on the Environment