



The Honorable Harry Reid
528 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Wayne Allard
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building

The Honorable Robert Bennett
431 Dirksen Senate Office Building

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
703 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Pete Domenici
328 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable John Ensign
119 Russell Senate Office Building

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
104 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable Jon Kyl
730 Hart Senate Office Building

The Honorable John McCain
241 Russell Senate Office Building

The Honorable Ken Salazar
702 Hart Senate Office Building

April 2, 2008

Dear Senators:

We write to urge you to work collectively to end the stalemate over extending the solar investment tax credit (ITC). As leaders from the region that will benefit greatly from the development of utility-scale solar energy projects, we know this industry is important to you and your constituents.

The signatories on this letter represent the major utility-scale solar companies operating in the United States. Collectively we are working to bring on-line over 3,000 MW of utility-scale projects that already are under contract. Though over 450 MW of electricity is currently being generated in the Southwest from utility-scale solar projects, that barely scratches the surface of the vast solar resources located in your states. Together, we can unleash the enormous economic development potential that this clean, domestic source of energy offers. However, without a long-term extension of the solar ITC, all of the utility-scale solar projects in the pipeline are in jeopardy, and future projects are unlikely to be financed and constructed. We need your leadership on this issue.

As you know, the West as a region has set an ambitious goal to generate 30,000 MW of clean energy by 2015, of which 8,000 MW will be from solar energy. Utility-scale solar energy projects offer a vital pathway toward meeting these regional and statewide objectives. They also will help transform the West into the epicenter of the emerging global clean energy economy.

A study recently conducted for the Western Governors' Association showed that for every 1,000 MW of large-scale solar built in the southwest, 3,400 construction jobs will be created; 250 permanent jobs will be created; \$500 million in state tax revenue will be generated; and over \$5.8 billion will be added to the gross state output. Additional jobs will be created in the manufacturing plants that will be built to support this generation.

These large-scale solar projects, which are carbon-free and help relieve pressure on the grid during peak load hours, have a 4-5 year project development timeframe – from negotiating a contract for the electricity output, to securing the

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project site, building any necessary transmission, and completing construction. This longer project development window makes it imperative that Congress pass an **8-year extension** of the solar ITC, thus providing the stable market signal that our financial partners need to invest in these cutting-edge clean power plants.

Just last year, global investment in clean energy topped \$100 billion – with solar energy as the leading clean energy candidate for venture capital and private equity investment. Nations across the globe are competing to corner the market on solar energy technologies, and to capitalize on the job growth potential and economic gain associated with this promising industry. The signatories below are working hard to ensure that the U.S. is not left behind in this global competition. We ask that you, as Western Senators, help us by doing everything you can to ensure prompt passage of legislation with significant bipartisan support that adopts an **8-year extension** of the solar ITC. The citizens of your states will thank you.

Sincerely,

Emiliano Garcia
General Manager
Abengoa Solar, Inc.

Holly Gordon
Director, Regulatory and Legislative Affairs
Ausra, Inc.

Joshua Bar-Lev
Vice President
Brightsource Energy

Jason Topercer
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Dale Rogers
Executive Vice President – Strategy and Market Development
eSolar

Craig Lewis
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Peter Brehm
Vice President of Business Development and Government Relations
Infinia

Craig Cox
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Interwest Energy Alliance

Dave Kearney
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Randolph Wu
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Managing Director, Solar Power
PPM Energy, Inc.

Alex Marker
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SCHOTT North America, Inc.

Dr. Arnold Leitner
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SkyFuel, Inc.

Rainer Aringhoff
President
Solar Millennium LLC

Matthew McCullough
President/CEO
Solar Monkey

Terry Murphy
President and CEO
Solar Reserve

Kevin Swartz
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Solel, Inc

Scott Sklar
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David Smith
President
Sunworks Solar Systems, Inc.