



July 22, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker and Majority Leader Hoyer:

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) and the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) are writing to express our serious concerns regarding the potential for H.R. 3534, the CLEAR Act, as currently drafted to hamper renewable energy development on public lands. We are opposed to the bill in its current form, but would like to continue working to improve the bill so it enhances the deployment of renewable energy.

First, we are concerned that the provisions as currently written in Title V regarding competitive leasing and royalties for wind and solar projects on public lands would substantially reduce the amount of renewable energy development on public lands by making the approval process more complex and costly. It is important to remember that solar and wind energy are part of the solution to our nation's need for clean energy, not part of the problem. We strongly supported the compromise amendment offered by Representative Markey in the Natural Resources Committee that authorized a pilot program approach so that a fully informed decision on competitive leasing and royalties could be made by the Secretary of Interior based on the facts. We also are engaged in productive dialogue with members of the environmental community on these issues. We are optimistic that agreement can be reached. However, if Title V remains as currently drafted, we respectfully request that it be struck from the bill prior to coming to the floor.

Second, we are concerned that renewable energy permitting will get lost in the consolidation of all energy and mineral leasing into a single Bureau as proposed in Title I. We strongly supported an amendment offered by Representative Inslee during the Committee markup to establish within the Bureau a Renewable Energy Office. We would also urge that the Inslee language be incorporated into the bill prior to floor action.

Finally, we support inclusion of language along the lines of H.R. 2662, introduced by Representative Heinrich, which would provide that a portion of the rental fees or royalty payments made by wind and solar projects are recycled back into the Department of Interior to improve processing of additional applications. This benefit exists under current law with respect to the Bureau of Land Management for oil and gas, geothermal, film production and communications towers.

AWEA-SEIA CLEAR Act letter  
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Thank you for your continued leadership on issues of importance to the renewable energy industry. Wind and solar energy are creating jobs and playing an increasingly important role in improving our nation's national, environmental, and economic security. With the right public policies in place, we can achieve a robust, low-carbon economy. Thank you for your consideration of our requests.

Sincerely,



President & CEO  
Solar Energy Industries Association



CEO  
American Wind Energy Association