



May 11, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressional Leaders:

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) is the national trade association of the solar energy industry. We deeply appreciate your continued support of pro-solar policies, including the Department of Energy (DOE) Loan Guarantee Program. In part due to policies enacted by Congress, the U.S. solar market grew 67 percent in 2010 and created approximately 50,000 new jobs.

On behalf of our 1,000 member companies and 100,000 Americans employed by the solar industry, I am writing to respectfully request that you to provide additional funding to the DOE Loan Guarantee Program for FY2012. The solar energy industry is one of the fastest-growing industries in the country, doubling the number of workers employed in the U.S. last year. Yet today that growth has been jeopardized, as the DOE informed dozens of applicants in the Loan Guarantee Program that their project will be put on hold indefinitely.

To date, DOE has committed nearly \$30 billion in loan guarantees for 27 clean energy projects with total project investments of over \$40 billion. Together these projects will create tens of thousands of jobs across 21 states.

The DOE Loan Guarantee Program has achieved several notable successes for solar projects, including the closing of loan guarantees for utility-scale solar power plants in Arizona and California, both of which are currently under construction and employing hundreds of workers. These projects have suppliers across the country, including states like Michigan, Kentucky and Alabama. Loan guarantees have also been issued for solar manufacturing facilities in California, Colorado and Indiana. However, there are approximately 40 pending applications that have been placed on hold, representing \$15 billion in clean energy investments and thousands of jobs across the country. These companies have spent millions of dollars preparing applications and undergoing DOE's due diligence process.

While we appreciate DOE's need to move forward on the projects it believes are most likely to meet the Section 1705 September 30, 2011 deadline, we are concerned that a funding shortfall will prevent many other worthy applications from moving forward. We ask that you work with the Appropriations Committees to provide sufficient funding to the Section 1703 DOE Loan Guarantee Program in FY2012 to continue the timely processing and reward of loan guarantees to all of the projects deserving of DOE support.

The Loan Guarantee Program was established to leverage private capital investment in job-creating renewable energy projects. Our collective ability to deploy renewable energy generation, to regain a leadership position in the manufacture of clean energy technologies, and to put people to work today relies on the continued efficacy of this program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rhone Resch".

Rhone Resch  
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc:     Congressman Harold Rogers  
          Congressman Norm Dicks  
          Senator Daniel K. Inouye  
          Senator Thad Cochran