



May 9, 2011

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski,

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) thanks you for the opportunity to submit comments on the draft text of the Critical Minerals Policy Act of 2011. The solar industry stands ready to provide additional input on this and future solar-related topics.

SEIA is the national trade association for the solar industry. Through advocacy and education, SEIA is working to build a strong solar industry to power America. As the voice of the industry, SEIA works with its 1,000 member companies to make solar a mainstream and significant energy source by expanding markets, removing market barriers, strengthening the industry, and educating the public on the benefits of solar energy. SEIA represents solar companies across a variety of solar energy technologies, including photovoltaic, solar water heating, and concentrating solar power. SEIA members include manufacturers, distributors, contractors, installers, financiers, and project developers of solar energy.

As the solar industry continues its rapid growth, the solar supply-chain has come under increased scrutiny. Thus, securing the supply-chain of solar products is of increasing importance to the industry, as manufacturing efforts and US exports increase. In 2010, domestic production of silicon wafers increased by 97%, cells by 81%, and modules by 62%. Despite these impressive numbers, the US solar industry faces strong competition from foreign manufacturers with access to lower-cost materials.

We look forward to working with you further to increase U.S.-based manufacturing of clean energy technologies, including solar.

The full-text of our comments is attached to this letter. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Christine Covington at ccovington@seia.org or (202)-556-2894.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Covington".

Christine Covington
Manager of Government Affairs