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ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–6115

Majority (202) 225–2927
Minority (202) 225–3641

January 30, 2012

Mr. Herbert M. Allison, Jr.
c/o Arnold & Porter LLP
555 12th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Allison:

Pursuant to House Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, we write today seeking a briefing relating to your review of the Department of Energy (DOE) Loan Guarantee Program at the request of the White House.

Over the last year, the Committee on Energy and Commerce has been conducting oversight of the DOE Loan Guarantee Program. In February 2011, the Committee opened an investigation into the loan guarantee awarded to Solyndra, Inc., the now-bankrupt company which received the first DOE loan guarantee, in the amount of $535 million. During September, as DOE rushed to award almost $8 billion in loan guarantees before the stimulus deadline, we expanded our investigation to examine DOE's management of the DOE Section 1705 Loan Guarantee portfolio generally. On September 20 and October 6, we asked DOE to provide the Committee with certain information about the Section 1705 loans so that the Committee can examine the health of the portfolio and how DOE has mitigated the risks presented by these loan guarantees. To date, DOE has yet to provide the bulk of these materials. Since the date that the Committee requested this information, another DOE loan guarantee recipient, Beacon, has filed for bankruptcy.

According to public statements made by White House Chief of Staff William Daley, the White House has asked you to analyze "the current state of the Department of Energy loan portfolio, focusing on future loan monitoring and management" and to produce a report or evaluation setting forth your findings within 60 days. It is our understanding that this report will be issued in the near future.

We contacted Arnold & Porter LLP to request that you brief Committee staff about your review and the scope of the documents and information provided to you in relation to that

review. It is our hope that we can work collaboratively, given the Committee's extensive investigation of the 1705 Loan Guarantee Program to date. We were told that you are not accepting meetings with "outside groups." As the Committee has been looking into the same matters that are the subject of your review, we respectfully submit that it would make sense to attempt to work collaboratively. We request that you contact Karen Christian or Todd Harrison of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927 to schedule a meeting to take place prior to the public release of your report.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact Committee staff if you have any questions about this request.

Sincerely,

Fred Upton
Chairman

Cliff Stearns
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member

The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations