

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

September 21, 2011

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the United States House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is examining a loan guarantee made to Solyndra, Inc., by the Department of Energy (DOE) Loan Guarantee Program.

Last week, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, held a hearing to examine the role of DOE and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in reviewing the Solyndra loan guarantee. At that hearing, Members of the Subcommittee asked Jonathan Silver, Director of the DOE Loan Programs Office, to describe the DOE's contacts with the White House during the review of the Solyndra loan guarantee in 2009 and during its restructuring this year. Mr. Silver acknowledged that the DOE and the White House did have discussions about the Solyndra guarantee; however, he was not able to identify the particulars of these communications with White House officials and personnel, including which officials in the White House communicated with DOE about Solyndra, the substance of those communications, and when those communications occurred.

For this reason, we ask that you provide the following information no later than September 28, 2011:

1. All documents containing communications (including, but not limited to, letters and email) between the Department of Energy and the White House (including, but not limited to, the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the National Economic Council) relating to the \$535 million loan guarantee issued to Solyndra, Inc., by the Department of Energy.

In addition, last week the Department of Treasury announced that it had opened an inquiry into the role the Federal Financing Bank played in processing and funding the loan

guarantee disbursements to Solyndra. In Request Number 4 of our February 17, 2011, letter, the Committee requested all documents containing communications between the Department of Energy and the Department of the Treasury relating to the Solyndra loan guarantee. Please confirm by writing that you have provided documents responsive to this request and, if not, the reason for withholding these documents. The request in the February 17 letter is reiterated here:

2. All documents containing communications between and among the officials, staff, administrators, and employees of the Department of Energy and the officials, staff, administrators, and employees of the Department of the Treasury and the Office of Management and Budget relating to the \$535 million loan guarantee for Solyndra including, but not limited to, letters and email.

Please contact Committee staff no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 23, 2011, to discuss a schedule for production. This schedule should provide for production of the documents no later than September 28, 2011. An attachment to this letter provides additional information about how to respond to the Committee's request.

We would also like to confirm that, pursuant to the instructions which accompanied our February 17, 2011, letter to you, the Committee's document requests are continuing in nature. All documents responsive to the Committee's requests set forth in the February 17 letter that were created on or after that date should be produced to the Committee. Already, the Department of Energy has begun to produce documents dated after February 17, and we appreciate your attention to the Committee's request.

Please do not hesitate to contact Karen Christian or Todd Harrison with the Committee at (202) 225-2927 with any questions about this matter.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman



Cliff Stearns
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations



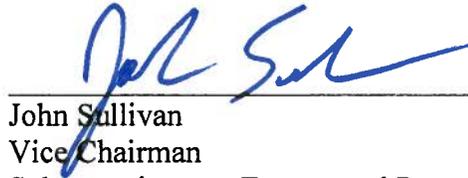
Sue Myrick
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John Sullivan
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Subcommittee on Energy and Power



Tim Murphy
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Environment
and the Economy



Michael C. Burgess
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Health



Martha Blackburn
Vice Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Manufacturing, and Trade



cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member

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

Signatories

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