



June 15, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
S-231 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J Durbin
Majority Whip
S-321 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Kyl
Minority Whip
S-208 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid, McConnell, Durbin and Kyl:

The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) urges you support passage of the Cantwell-LeMieux Amendment to extend and expand the Section 1603 Treasury Grant Program (TGP) in the tax extenders package. This successful program already supports 8,300 additional solar and related jobs nationwide and has already helped 4,250 megawatts of renewable power projects come online. Extending and expanding the TGP for two years will add nearly 65,000 solar and related jobs by 2015.

Clean energy can be the United States' next economic growth engine and we are grateful that leaders like you recognize this opportunity and have acted on measures that support solar energy, such as the extension of the 30 percent Solar Investment Tax Credit in 2008 and provisions for solar in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) such as the Section 1603 TGP.

Currently, the United States is forecast to be the world's largest market for solar technology. However, the right incentives are needed to achieve this huge potential. Section 1603 of the ARRA authorizes the Department of Treasury to issue grants, in lieu of the long-standing tax credits, to renewable energy facilities that were placed in service or that commenced construction by the end of 2010. This program was developed to mitigate difficulties in project financing caused by the recession, including the lack of tax equity. By facilitating project financing, Section 1603 helps bring thousands of megawatts of clean energy online quickly, and create well-paying American clean energy jobs.

Extending the TGP by two years will help grow America's solar energy industry. According to the independent firm, EuPD Research, extending the TGP by two years will add nearly 65,000 new solar and related jobs to the workforce by 2015 and over 5,000 megawatts of additional clean, reliable solar energy by 2016. It is also expected to save the government \$400 million between 2010 and 2016. A study by Lawrence Berkeley National Labs yielded similar findings, detailing that the TGP created over 55,000 jobs in 2009.

The studies have all arrived at the same conclusion; the TGP has been a success and has put thousands of Americans to work supporting the construction and deployment of thousands of megawatts of clean and reliable renewable energy.

On behalf of the nearly 1,000 members of the Solar Energy Industries Association and 46,000 American workers supported by the solar industry, we urge you to pass the Cantwell-LeMieux Amendment and extend the TGP for two years.

Thank you.

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

Rhone Resch
President & CEO
Solar Energy Industries Association