

ENERGY COMMUNITIES ALLIANCE

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December 21, 2010

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20585

VIA FACSIMILE

RE: DOE SHOULD ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO USE DOE SITES FOR ENERGY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Dear Secretary Chu:

Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) encourages the Department of Energy (DOE) to create a new energy demonstration initiative at current and former DOE and NNSA sites. This new program would accomplish the goals highlighted in your Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announcement last week – use federal property for alternative energy development and implement President Obama’s energy policy goals.

As the federal agency responsible for addressing this country’s energy demands, DOE is uniquely positioned to implement an energy demonstration initiative that utilizes the Department’s vast resources. These physical and technical resources include: real estate assets, technical and research expertise including the national labs, skilled workers and funding for energy projects. Once implemented, these demonstration projects could serve as model for other federal agencies interested in developing energy projects on their land.

Several times during the past two years the Department has supported -- but took no action to implement -- these energy demonstration projects, commonly known as Energy Parks, at DOE and NNSA sites.

Prior to Undersecretary Johnson’s departure, we were told that DOE prepared a memorandum and that DOE prepared to launch a task force that had gained concurrence from all DOE and NNSA offices to implement this initiative. Sadly, despite our regular inquiries we no longer know the fate of this initiative that could power DOE sites and communities with clean and alternative energy technologies that DOE is developing and promoting around the (world) country. The program also includes advanced manufacturing and new energy technology

projects at current and former DOE sites. This initiative should create thousands of new jobs and assist the Department with goals to increase the use of non-fossil fuel based energy.

ECA does not want to see this opportunity lost and stands ready to assist the Department to implement a program to develop these energy projects. When ECA met with you, we were told to communicate leading issues and identify solutions. We have charted a clear path on implementing a program that can serve as a model for other federal agencies and we want to see this program, or a similar program, grow and create opportunities at DOE sites.

Please contact Seth Kirshenberg at (202) 828-2317 with any questions. We stand ready to assist the Department to implement this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Robert Thompson

ECA Chair

Councilmember, Richland, WA

Cc: Seth Kirshenberg, ECA Executive Director
Mayor Thomas Beehan, ECA Vice-Chair, Oak Ridge, TN
Councilmember Chuck Smith, ECA Secretary, Aiken County, SC
Councilmember Ralph Phelps, ECA Treasurer, Los Alamos County, NM
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