

August 24, 2011

Secretary Steven Chu  
U.S. Department of Energy  
SunShot Initiative and Solar Energy Technologies Program  
1000 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC, 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

The Contra Costa Economic Partnership (CCEP) has requested my support for their application for funding under the Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative: Rooftop Solar Challenge to Induce Market Transformation program.

I understand that the CCEP will partner with local governments, industry, and stakeholders in a three phased project to improve market conditions for solar PV permitting in Contra Costa, Alameda, and Solano counties. I understand that these funds will enable the CCEP to develop and implement a transparent, consistent, and expedient permitting and interconnection process for residential and commercial rooftop PV systems that can eliminate waste and variability across jurisdictions, while meeting code and safety requirements. I am aware that the CCEP is dedicated to creating jobs and improving the quality of life in Contra Costa and I recognize the importance of streamlining permit and interconnection processes to support the growing solar PV industry.

I support this application and hope that the CCEP's grant request will be given full and fair consideration consistent with applicable laws and regulations. I understand that this funding would enable the CCEP to support the growth of the solar PV industry in Contra Costa and further their commitment to creating jobs for local residents.

Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact my Walnut Creek district office at 925-932-8899.

Sincerely,



JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress, CA-10