

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader, House of Representatives
H-107, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer,

As the members of the Congressional Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition (SEEC), we thank you for your leadership and determination towards achieving a meaningful and inclusive American economic recovery. We write you to offer our priority proposals as you undertake consideration of policies aimed at domestic job creation.

By working from the success of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) that was signed into law by President Obama in February, 2009 – which has saved or created hundreds of thousands of American jobs – we feel that we can put Americans back to work quickly and provide for sustained, comprehensive economic growth.

Our Coalition feels that with targeted investments and incentives for energy efficiency we can create jobs quickly while lowering energy costs across the country. As well, SEEC urges investments and incentives for renewable energy in order to create jobs and grow the domestic clean energy industry that promises to dominate the global economy of our new century. Further, SEEC proposes investments in the health of American infrastructure, natural resources, and water efficiency, through which we can put people back to work rebuilding American prosperity. Finally, SEEC urges the adoption and funding of worker training programs to allow Americans better access to new careers and opportunities.

With a desire to avoid contributing significantly to the federal deficit, SEEC urges these proposals be given consideration as you develop policies to put America back to work and bring a substantive economic recovery to “Main Street.”

Energy Efficiency

- 1) **Create a national energy efficiency home retrofit program** that will quickly create jobs retrofitting millions of homes and saving homeowners money on their energy costs.
- 2) **Incentivize and facilitate retrofits for federally-assisted housing** to create retrofitting jobs, reduce energy waste, and save taxpayer dollars on energy and water costs.
 - Establish a “green dividend” program to better incentivize retrofits.
 - Refashion and extend the existing H.U.D. Weatherization Program.
- 3) **Property-assessed clean energy bonds:** Amend the DOE’s Indirect Loan Guarantee Program so that these guarantees can be used to back municipalities or other entities that provide financing for residential and commercial energy efficiency and clean energy improvements.

- 4) **Expand and create tax incentives for non-residential energy efficiency improvements** to increase investments in building retrofits, create jobs, and lower energy bills across the country.
- **Expand the existing Efficient Commercial Building Tax Deduction.**
 - **Create a non-residential mechanical insulation installation tax incentive.**

Renewable Energy

- 5) **Reinstate \$2 billion taken from the Dept. of Energy Innovative Energy Loan Guarantee Program** and speed the awarding of these loan guarantees to qualified applicants.
- 6) **Establish a Clean Energy Deployment Administration** to provide innovative American clean energy businesses with the capital and certainty that they need to jump-start a new and independent American clean energy economy and spur enormous job creation.
- 7) **Continuing successful Dept. of Energy ARRA programs** for domestic clean energy innovation and manufacturing will provide a greater number of highly qualified applicants with access to needed funding.
- **Section 48(C) ITC the 'Advanced Energy Manufacturing Tax Credit'**
 - **ARPA-E**
 - **Advanced Battery Manufacturing Grants**
 - **Transport Electrification**
 - **Industrial Efficiency/Combined Heat and Power**
- 8) **Extend, expand, and create tax credits and incentives for renewable energy** to spur job creation and grow the domestic industry.
- **Two-year extension of Treasury Grant Investment Tax Credit Program** (grants in lieu of tax credits).
 - **Expansion of Section 48(a)(3) to include manufacturing of qualified solar property.**
 - **Create a capital gains tax incentive for investment in domestic clean energy companies.**
 - **One year extension of IRC Sec. 179, Accelerated Depreciation for clean energy capital improvements.**
- 9) **Increase the limit of federal power purchase agreements to twenty five years** to allow for new energy technologies (and their accompanying domestic job-creation) to compete with dirty, outdated energy sources, and save taxpayer money with more cost-effective federal energy investments.

Transportation Infrastructure

- 10) **Allow authorization for the use of a larger portion of transportation funds for operating costs:** Transit systems across the country have been forced to cut services (and jobs) due to revenue shortages, at the same time ridership numbers are at record highs.
- 11) **Increase funding for public transit, and multi-modal TIGER and TIGGER programs** to quickly create jobs and efficiently fund projects that support economic development, reduce energy consumption, and build livable communities.

- 12) **Focus Highway and Bridge account funding on maintenance:** Studies show that money spent on repairs of existing infrastructure is disbursed more quickly and creates more jobs than money spent on new construction.
- 13) **Increase funding for active transportation/transportation enhancement projects** to create jobs quickly and create safe, complete streets with shovel-ready, labor-intensive bicycle and pedestrian projects that will benefit communities across the country.
 - Increase share of funding for Transportation Enhancement program to 10%.
 - Provide funding for Active Transportation projects.

Water Infrastructure and Efficiency

- 14) **Fund the EPA WaterSense Program** to create jobs and foster water efficiency in local programs that offer rebates or vouchers for water-efficient products, services, fixtures and appliances.
- 15) **Temporarily suspend or reduce States' cost share requirement for water infrastructure projects** to allow for needed projects to be undertaken more expeditiously.
- 16) **Provide additional funding for Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water State Funds** to create jobs quickly repairing America's water infrastructure; an essential need.

Natural Resources

- 17) **Provide further funding for Department of Interior Agencies and Programs** that have significant capital needs for shovel-ready projects that would put Americans to work quickly.
 - **Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Abandoned Mine Lands Program**
 - **Forest Service project funding**
 - **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)**

Worker Training

- 18) **Fund the Clean Energy Corps** (authorized in the *Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Act*) to train young Americans to install solar panels, restore trails and watersheds on public lands, weatherize low-income homes, conduct home energy audits, and provide technical assistance to help small businesses reduce their energy use.
- 19) **Establish a Community College Energy Training Program** to provide grants to community college training programs in the wind, solar, geothermal and biomass energy sectors, and also energy-efficient construction and retrofitting, recycling and waste reduction, water and energy conservation, and sustainable agriculture.
- 20) **Further fund Green Jobs Grants**, which has dedicated nearly 100% percent of the funding authorized to it in ARRA. Many of these training grants target traditionally underserved communities and will support strategic partnerships and other entities to prepare workers for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy industries.

- 21) **Establish a Green Development Institute** to serve as a national clearinghouse for low-carbon economic and workforce development efforts nationally by providing technical assistance, conducting research and outreach, and disseminating best practices information to local governments, nonprofits, and academic institutions.

We thank you for your continued leadership, and we look forward to working with you to lay the groundwork for a meaningful economic recovery and a stronger America in the days to come.

Sincerely,

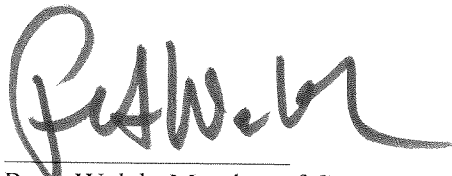
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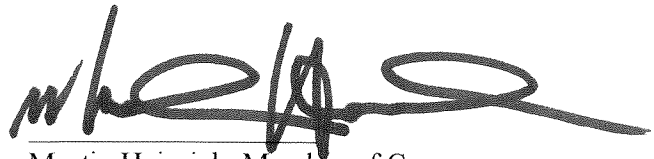
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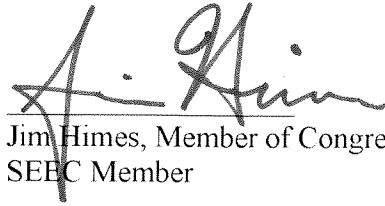
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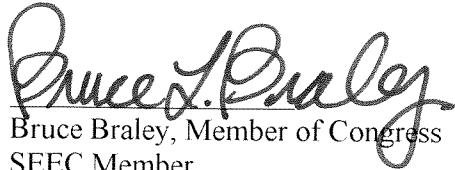
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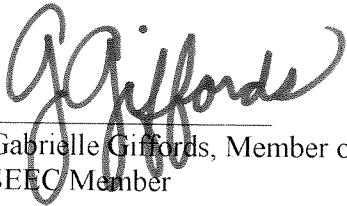
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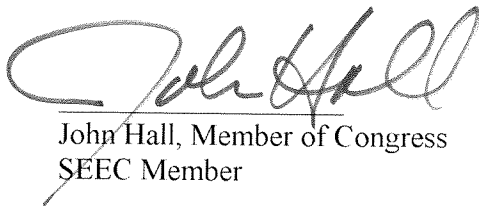
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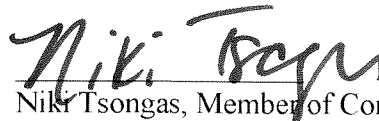
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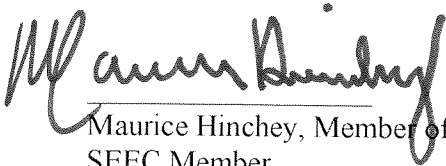
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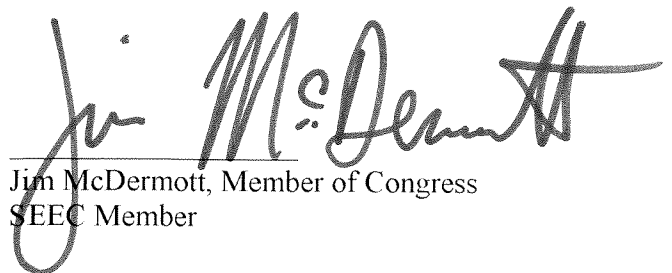
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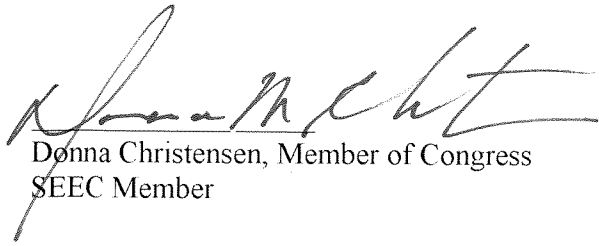
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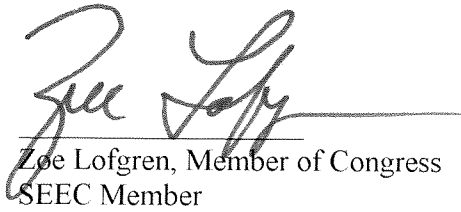
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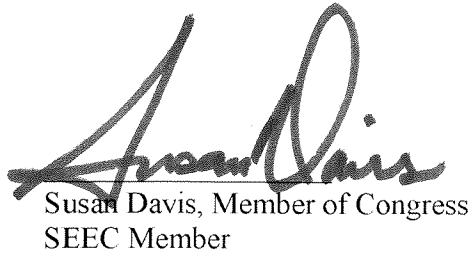
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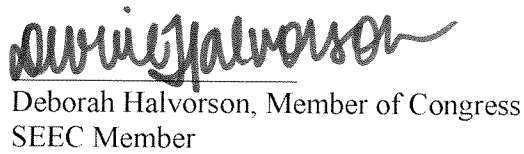
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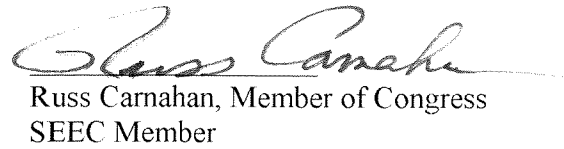
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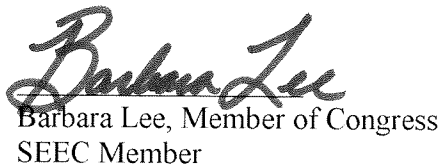
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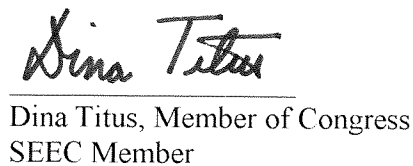
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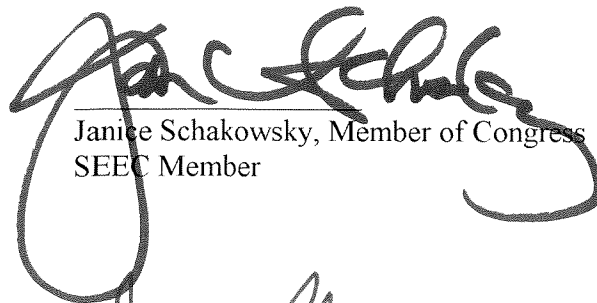
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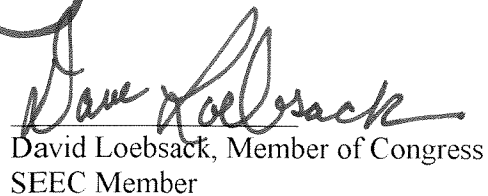
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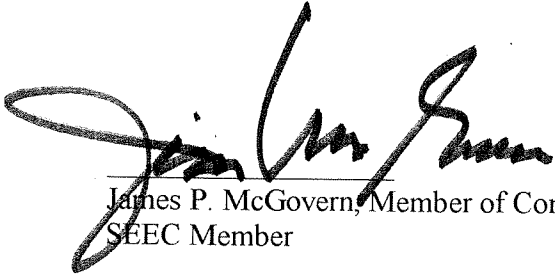
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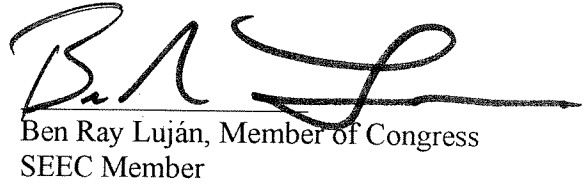
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Ben Ray Luján, Member of Congress
SEEC Member



Doris Matsui, Member of Congress
SEEC Member



Tom Perriello, Member of Congress
SEEC Member

CC: The Honorable George Miller, Chairman, House Education and Labor Committee
CC: The Honorable John Larson, Chairman, House Democratic Caucus