

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Chu,

We are writing to congratulate you on your confirmation as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy. We look forward to working with you to expand the promise of advanced technologies to meet our urgent energy, economic, environmental and national security needs.


The economic stimulus package calls for a significant investment in developing and deploying renewable energy technologies. In particular, the bill recognizes that the United States has significant ocean, marine and tidal energy resources. The measure provides additional resources to the Department for marine-renewable energy R&D.

As the lead sponsors of the Marine Renewable Energy Promotion Act of 2007, along with other Congressional advocates, we recognize development of the technologies to capture these ocean and tidal resources can play a significant role in our nation's economic recovery and expand our renewable energy portfolio. Increasing the level of Federal support and implementing viable program initiatives are critical needs if we are to access these abundant homeland energy resources.


We strongly urge you to ensure that the Department of Energy's EERE Water Power R&D program provide at least \$250 million for enhanced support in the research, development, and demonstration of marine renewable technologies. We also recommend that DOE launch a Marine Renewable Energy Conversion Device Verification Program to fund and facilitate the development and installation of marine-based projects. The program would increase marine-based power experience and build and operate enough candidate devices to obtain statistically significant operating and maintenance data. This effort would also enhance DOE's ability to obligate the increased level of funding in a timely fashion with clear results. These two actions would accelerate the state of marine-based energy systems and lead to wide-scale production and commercialization of this technology.

We appreciate in advance your favorable response to our request.

Sincerely,



Jay Inslee
Member of Congress



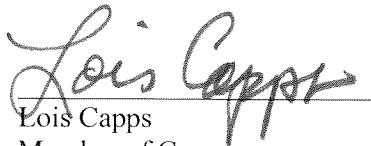
Barney Frank
Member of Congress



William Delahunt
Member of Congress



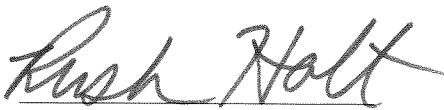
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



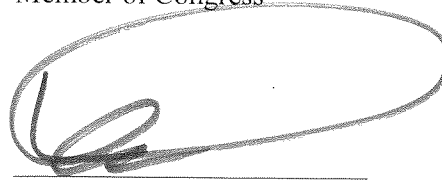
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



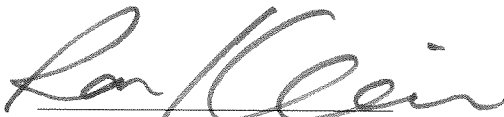
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



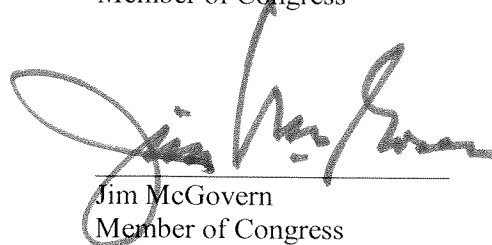
Rush Holt
Member of Congress



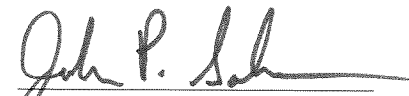
David Wu
Member of Congress




Ron Klein
Member of Congress



Jim McGovern
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

cc:

Steven Chalk, Acting Assistant Secretary, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Megan McClellan, Program Manager, Wind and Water Technologies