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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6150

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September 22, 2011

The Honorable Dr. Steven Chu  
Secretary  
Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington DC 20585

Dear Secretary Chu:

Since 2009, the Department of Energy (DOE), through its Loan Programs Office (LPO), has issued nearly \$9.6 billion in loan guarantees under Section 406 of the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009" (ARRA). I understand that the LPO may close on up to another \$9.2 billion in guaranteed borrowing this month. Indeed, over the next nine days, as the ARRA deadline nears and many of these financing transactions are closed, the United States will take on very significant obligations under this program.

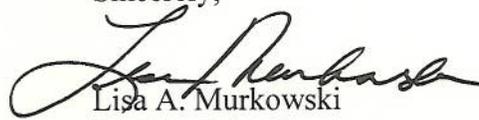
In these critical days, as the Cabinet Officer responsible for approving obligations entered into with respect to these transactions, I ask you to do your utmost to avoid the mistakes that appear to have been committed with respect to Solyndra LLC, the first-ever recipient of a DOE loan guarantee. Although I believe there is value in DOE's loan program, the circumstances surrounding Solyndra's bankruptcy filing have raised questions about the program as a whole.

I ask for your assurance that you have identified and corrected any systemic flaws in the administration of your agency's loan guarantee and direct loan programs. In particular, I request your continued personal involvement to ensure that the LPO complies with the terms and conditions established in Section 1702 of the "Energy Policy Act of 2005." I also ask what immediate steps – prior to the issuance of additional loan guarantees – you are taking to ensure that taxpayers are more effectively protected. Finally, I request that you provide your response as soon as possible.

As the committee of jurisdiction, I feel it is the duty of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee conduct oversight on this matter and have asked Chairman Bingaman to schedule such a hearing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lisa A. Murkowski  
Ranking Member