



August 5, 2010

The Honorable Doris O. Matsui
United States House of Representatives
222 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

On behalf of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), we express our strong support for H.R.5931, the Renewable Energy Incentive Act, which would extend and expand the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Section 1603 Treasury Grant Program (TGP).

The BCSE is an industry coalition that includes businesses and trade associations representing the suite of currently available energy technologies for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases. Biogas, biomass, geothermal, hydropower, solar, wind, and other renewable energy options, combined with supply-side and demand-side energy efficiency and natural gas, are proven economic engines that will foster economic growth and create new high-quality jobs.

Section 1603 of the ARRA authorizes the Department of the Treasury to issue grants to renewable energy facilities that would otherwise qualify for the investment tax credit or production tax credit which are completed in 2009 or 2010 or start construction in 2009 or 2010 and are completed by a deadline. We appreciate that the Matsui legislation expands the TGP and extends the start construction date to December 31, 2012, similar to provisions in Senator Diane Feinstein's bill, S. 2899, and similar to an amendment to the tax extenders bill proposed by Senators Cantwell and LeMieux.

The TGP has been a highly effective vehicle for creating well-paying American clean energy jobs quickly. In response to a House Ways and Means Committee inquiry into the impact of the TGP, the Lawrence Berkeley Lab issued a [report](#) in April 2010 that found the following:

- The TGP supports technology diversity and has awarded the grant to a wide range of projects from biomass, combined heat & power, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal electric, solar heat & hot water, wind, landfill gas, hydropower, geothermal, and fuel cells;
- In total, 4.25 GW of renewable power projects have come online and been supported by the TGP at the time of the report; and
- Most significantly, the TGP created over 55,000 jobs in wind and geothermal industries in 2009.

Further, a [recent study](#) by the independent EuPD Research found that 17,000 solar jobs were supported in 2009 by the TGP. The same report forecasts that extending the TGP by two years will add nearly 65,000 new jobs to the solar workforce and supporting industries across the U.S. in 2015. It also found that it will yield a net savings to the government of \$400 million between 2010 and 2016.

As these studies have shown, the TGP has been successful and has put tens of thousands of Americans to work. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and encourage Congress to quickly enact H.R. 5931 to extend and expand the TGP to help create more high-quality clean energy jobs this year.

Sincerely,

Lisa Jacobson, President