

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 22, 2011

The Honorable Steven Chu
Secretary
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Dr. Chu,

As supporters of domestically-produced, clean sources of energy, we appreciate your agency's commitment to the development and commercialization of renewable energy. We recognize that wind energy plays an important role in our energy future, providing a myriad of benefits to both the environment and the economy. To that end, we urge an increased focus at the Department of Energy on research, development, and deployment (RD&D) of small and community wind power, also known as "distributed wind," in FY 2012.

As the cost of energy and concerns about energy security continue to rise, more and more people are recognizing the value of distributed wind generation. Not only does distributed wind improve rural economies, create jobs, and reduce pollution, it also enhances energy security. Due to its decentralized nature, distributed wind improves energy reliability by reducing dependence on the power grid and the need for large investments in electricity distribution infrastructure.

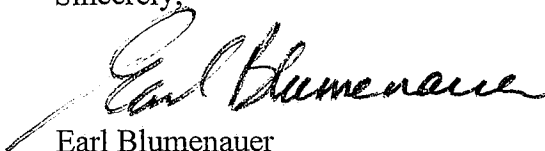
Through consistent innovation and early adoption, the U.S. has become a world leader in the distributed wind energy industry, with American manufacturers dominating the market. Ninety-five percent of the small wind systems (ie, those systems 100 kW and under) installed in the U.S. in 2009 were manufactured domestically.

While the Federal government has made significant strides in promoting large wind farms, support for distributed wind has been limited. In order to maintain and enhance global leadership in this technology, increased investment in the domestic distributed wind industry is vital.

Therefore, we urge the Department of Energy to expand support within the wind program for distributed wind, including technology and systems development, testing, deployment, and related activities. We also recommend that the agency dedicate a portion of its future budgets to distributed wind generation RD&D to ensure that this is an area of substantial and consistent focus in coming years.

Thank you for your continued support of wind energy and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress

Jesse Jackson, Jr.

Jesse Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Ron Paul

Ron Paul
Member of Congress

Sam Farr

Sam Farr
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Paul A. Gosar

Paul Gosar
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Dave Loebsack

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John W. Olver

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Roscoe Bartlett

Roscoe Bartlett
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Dennis J. Kucinich

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Tom Latham

Tom Latham
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Jared Polis

Jared Polis
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Emanuel Cleaver II

Emanuel Cleaver II
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Jeff Fortenberry

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Charles Rangel

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Diana DeGette

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Henry A. Waxman

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Chellie P

Chellie Pingree
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