

Opening Statement of the Honorable Ed Whitfield
Subcommittee on Energy and Power
Markup of the "No More Solyndras Act"
July 24, 2012
(As Prepared for Delivery)

I am pleased we are here today marking up the "No More Solyndras Act." This is an important bill that needs to get done quickly so that we can sunset programs that are clearly not working.

I would like to take a moment to insert into the record the letters of support we have received from outside groups who support the "No More Solyndras Act" as well as point out a key point that each organization made:

- The American Energy Alliance said, the "'No More Solyndras' Act is one of the most common sense pieces of legislation to come from the 112th Congress."
- Americans for Tax Reform and the Cost of Government Center said, it "Ensure[s] that no more taxpayer money is wasted on Congressional pet projects or quid-pro-quo deals for campaign contributions."
- The American Conservative Union said, "This program was ill-conceived from the start, with the federal government picking winners and losers in the marketplace."
- American Commitment said, "Federal bureaucrats simply do a poor job of picking promising energy technologies, which should be unsurprising because they lack the dispersed knowledge that only the marketplace can efficiently use to allocate resources."
- The Heritage Foundation said, "Republicans and Democrats alike need to end their addiction to energy subsidies, or we're going to continue down the same failed path of wasteful spending."
- Let Freedom Ring said, "To put it simply, the American people deserved better."
- Americans for Prosperity said, "Government should not be in the business of advantaging the capital needs of certain industries or individual companies over others."
- And Citizens Against Government Waste said, "The Solyndra flame should have been expected, as the GAO found that the loan guarantee program was a poorly-crafted program that lacked robust internal management controls, clearly delineated performance benchmarks, transparent eligibility requirements, and accountability."

History teaches us that the biggest breakthroughs come from the private sector, and we need to make certain that Washington doesn't strangle it with red tape.

Instead of handing out billions in loan guarantees to selected companies, we can do much more good by removing billions in unnecessary regulatory compliance costs. I truly believe that this subcommittee's work to reform the train wreck of costly new EPA regulations would do more to reinvigorate private sector innovation than the Title XVII program as well as other government handouts.

It does not happen often enough that Congress admits that a federal program is failing the American people and puts an end to it. Today, we have the chance to do so by passing the No More Solyndras Act and I urge all my colleagues to support it.

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