

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

January 26, 2012

The Honorable Leon Panetta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary Panetta:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the United States House of Representatives, the Energy and Commerce Committee is examining the Department of Energy (DOE) \$535 million loan guarantee to Solyndra, Inc. (Solyndra), as well as efforts by the company to obtain contracts with other federal agencies.

In September 2009, Solyndra was the first recipient of a DOE loan guarantee. The credit subsidy for the Solyndra loan guarantee was provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), or stimulus. After the loan guarantee closed, Solyndra suffered a number of significant financial setbacks, causing the company to cancel a planned initial public offering, lay off a number of employees, and ultimately file for bankruptcy protection.

Documents produced to the Committee during the course of the investigation show that administration officials attempted to help Solyndra as it was struggling financially by contacting other federal agencies about purchasing the company's solar panels. In addition, other documents show that certain Solyndra investors were in contact with the Department of Defense (DOD) on behalf of the company. For example, we know that Solyndra investors specifically discussed the company with individuals in the Office of the Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Installations and the Environment and the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP). In addition, we understand that one of Solyndra's in-house lobbyists had an ongoing dialogue with an official in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy Plans and Programs.

In order for the Committee to fully understand the nature and extent of Solyndra's contacts with DOD, and whether individuals within the Obama administration assisted in these efforts, please provide the following information to the Committee by February 7, 2012:

1. All documents containing communications between Solyndra and DOD since January 1, 2009.
2. All documents containing communications between Solyndra's investors and DOD since January 1, 2009.
3. All documents containing communications between DOE and DOD referring or relating to Solyndra since January 1, 2009.
4. All documents containing communications between or among DOD officials, employees, staff, and administrators referring or relating to Solyndra since January 1, 2009.
5. All documents containing communications between or among the Executive Office of the President, the Office of the Vice President, and DOD referring or relating to Solyndra since January 1, 2009.
6. All documents created or prepared by DOD since January 1, 2009, relating to Solyndra, including, but not limited to, notes, analyses, memoranda, presentations, letters, and reports.

An attachment to this letter provides additional information about how to respond to the Committee's request. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact Karen Christian or John Stone of the Committee staff at (202) 225-2927 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Fred Upton
Chairman



Cliff Stearns
Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member

The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations